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By What Authority...
Reading The Scriptures
With Common Sense

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- **Specific vs. Generic Authority**
 - Specific authority is that which is clearly specified, while generic authority is a command given that can be executed in different ways. This is what is referred to as expediencies.
 - Examples of specific authority:
 - Noah and the ark. ***Gen. 6:13-16; 22***
 - The preaching of the gospel. ***Mark 16:15-16***
 - The music of the church. ***Eph. 5:18-19***

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- Expediency.
 - “That which is the most practical or expedient”
Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary
 - For something to be expedient, it first must be lawful. **1 Cor. 10:23 KJV**
 - Singing is commanded, songbooks are expedients.
Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16
 - We are told to teach and baptize, the projector and baptistery are expedients. **Mark 16:15-16**
 - The Lord’s Supper is commanded, the plates and drinking vessels are expedients. **1 Cor. 11:23-26**

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- Principles.
 - Using principles is to apply a certain teaching on other issues not mentioned by name but where the principle behind the Scriptures can easily fit without twisting the verse.
 - The apostle Paul taught that we can use principles. ***Gal. 5:19-21***
 - By principle, not by specific wording, we condemn pornography. ***Matt. 5:27-28; 1 Thess. 4:3-5***

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- Principles.
 - Using principles is to apply a certain teaching on other issues not mentioned by name but where the principle behind the Scriptures can easily fit without twisting the verse.
 - By principle, not by specific wording, we condemn drugs. *Prov. 23:29-35; 1 Cor. 6:12*
 - By principle and the original Greek, not by specific wording, we condemn social drinking. *1 Pet. 4:3*

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- The silence of the Scriptures.
 - The Scriptures teach that one should not act without instructions from the Lord.
 - Example of Israel at the Red Sea.
Exo. 14:10-16
 - The first Passover after the Exodus.
Num. 9:1-14
 - We are commanded not to go beyond what is written. *1 Cor. 4:6; 1 Pet. 4:11; 2 John 9*

STEPS OF SALVATION:

FROM **SINNER** TO **SAVED**

