

The Truth

The Whole Truth

**And nothing but
the Truth**

In Context

In Love

The Truth Shall Make You Free

Where do I find truth?

Ps 119:160 “The entirety of Your word is truth”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them by Your truth.

Your word is truth.”

*Deuteronomy 4:2 “You shall not add to the word
which I command you, nor take from it, that you
may keep the commandments of the LORD your
God which I command you.”*

A Quick Review of Authority

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

*"For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts."*

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."

A Quick Review of Authority

Galatians 3:19, 24-25 "What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made... Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

A Quick Review of Authority

Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

A Quick Review of Authority

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

A Quick Review of Authority

Galatians 1:7-9, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed."

2 John 9-11 "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds."

A Quick Review of Authority

Revelation 22:18-19 "For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

A Quick Review of Authority

When God wants us to do something,
He tells us what he wants.

These are called commandments.

For example, God told Nadab and Abihu where
to get fire for the burning of incense.

*Leviticus 16:12-13 “Then he {the priest} shall take
a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar
before the Lord , with his hands full of sweet
incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil.”*

A Quick Review of Authority

They got it from another place.

*Lev 10:1 “Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of
Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put
incense on it, and offered profane fire before the
Lord , which He commanded them not.”*

They both died because of their sin.

*Leviticus 10:2 “So fire went out from the Lord and
devoured them, and they died before the Lord .”*

A Quick Review of Authority

Why?

*Leviticus 10:3 “And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying:
'By those who come near Me
I must be regarded as holy;
And before all the people
I must be glorified.’“
So Aaron held his peace...*

A Quick Review of Authority

When God wants His people to do something,
He commands it.

Adab and Abiahu learned the hard way that
God must be regarded as holy and glorified.

They didn't glorify or honor Him
simply by getting their fire from a place
“which He commanded them not.”

The silence of the scriptures MUST be honored!

An Example of Authority

Today, all authority is given to Jesus

Matthew 28:18 "All authority is given to me in heaven and in earth."

The church belongs to Him

Matthew 16:16 "Upon this rock I will build my church."

An Example of Authority

Everything Christians do must be done in His name, that is, by His authority

Colossians 3:17 "Do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Authority is given, not assumed by silence

Leviticus 10:1 "Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He commanded them not."

An Example of Authority

Let's begin by looking at every verse in the
New Testament that refers to the music
used in worship.

There are only nine of them...

But first, remember John 4:24
"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must
worship in spirit and truth."

An Example of Authority

- (1) Matthew 26:30, "And when they had **sung** a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."
- (2) Acts 16:25, "But at midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and **singing** hymns to God."
- (3) Romans 15:9, "For this reason I will confess you among the Gentiles, and **sing** to your name"
- (4) 1 Corinthians 14:15, "I will **sing** with the spirit, and I will also **sing** with the understanding."
- (5) Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

An Example of Authority

- (6) Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
- (7) Hebrews 2:12, "In the midst of the assembly I will **sing** praise to You."
- (8) Hebrews 13:15, "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is **the fruit of our lips**, giving thanks to His name."
- (9) James 5:13, "Is any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him **sing** psalms."

An Example of Authority

Let's look a little closer at two of the verses which specified singing as the type of music God wants in worship to Him...

*Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; **teaching**, and **admonishing** one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, **singing with grace in your hearts** to the Lord."*

An Example of Authority

Here we see in our singing, we are to **speak, teach, and admonish** one another. This is what God expects us to do when we sing.

But can a mechanical instrument of music **speak, teach, or admonish** as God wishes us to do when we sing?

Can we fulfill this commandment with a mechanical instrument? **NO!**

An Example of Authority

Ephesians 5:19, "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

We cannot speak to one another with musical instruments!

The "instrument" God specifies He wants is the Christian's heart!

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An Example of Authority

Since Christ never authorized mechanical instruments of music in the New Testament to be used in worship of the church, we might ask, when did man "take it upon himself" to start using them in trying to worship God?

It is a historical fact according to early church history, no mechanical instruments of music were ever used in church worship until about the year 670 A.D.

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An Example of Authority

At this time the church at Rome introduced an organ which produced such disturbances that it was removed. It was not until about 775 A.D. that it was introduced again, but this time it was kept, even with many people objecting. The instrument was not accepted by many churches for many years.

Almost without exception, all denominational founders rejected the use of instrumental music in worship, including: Martin Luther (Lutherans), John Wesley (Methodists), and John Calvin (Presbyterians).

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An Example of Authority

The Primitive Baptists, Greek Orthodox, and Reformed Presbyterians all reject the use of instrumental music in worship to this day.

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An Example of Authority

Let's be clear, music from a mechanical instrument is another kind of music.
God has only authorized one kind of music –

SINGING!

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An Example of Authority

Along with a commandment comes the authority
to have whatever is reasonable to fulfill
that commandment.

We call these EXPEDIENTS

An expedient is anything that is needed or useful
to fulfill a commandment.

However, an expedient must also be LAWFUL!

"

An Example of Authority

Along with a commandment comes the authority
to have whatever is reasonable to fulfill
that commandment.

**In order to fulfill the commandment to partake
the Lord's Supper, we have the authority to
obtain the grape juice, cups, and unleavened
bread used in the Lord's Supper.**

"

An Example of Authority

Along with a commandment comes the authority
to have whatever is reasonable to fulfill
that commandment.

**In order to fulfill the commandment to teach, we
have the authority to have blackboards,
whiteboards, overhead projectors,
and other teaching aids.**

"

An Example of Authority

Along with a commandment comes the authority
to have whatever is reasonable to fulfill
that commandment.

**In order to fulfill the commandment to sing,
we have the authority to have song books
so that we all sing the same words!**

"

An Example of Authority

Along with a commandment comes the authority to have whatever is reasonable to fulfill that commandment.

Some song leaders pitch songs from their heads. Some use a pitch pipe to get the correct pitch. Please note that a pitch pipe is only used to pitch the song, and is never played while we are singing. It is simply an aid to finding a proper pitch for the song.

"

An Example of Authority

If God had not specified what kind of music He wanted in worship to Him, we would be free to select any kind of music that we wanted.

However, He has specified what kind of music He wants us to worship Him with.

An Example of Authority

He wants us to...

Sing hymns to Him (Mt 26:30)

Sing to His name (Romans 15:9)

Sing with the spirit and understanding (I Cor 14:15)

Sing to one another in psalms, hymns,
and spiritual songs, making melody in
our hearts to the Lord (Eph 5:19)

**Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, teaching
and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns,
and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts
to the Lord (Col. 3:16)**

An Example of Authority

He wants us to...

Sing praises to Him continually (Heb 2:12)

Offer the sacrifice of praise to Him, that is the fruit of our
lips, giving thanks to His name (Heb 13:15)

Sing psalms if anyone is cheerful (James 5:13)

Are we going to do it OUR way?

Or GOD'S way?

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An Example of Authority

What does the bible say
about giving?

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An Example of Authority

The Old Testament
commanded tithing.

The old law was nailed to the cross.

Our giving is determined
by New Testament teaching.

An Example of Authority

When should we give?

*1 Corinthians 16:1-3 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: **On the first day of the week** let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”*

An Example of Authority

How much should we give?

*1 Corinthians 16:1-3 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: **On the first day of the week** let each one of you lay something aside, storing up **as he may prosper**, that there be no collections when I come.”*

An Example of Authority

How much should we give?

*Acts 11:29 “Then the disciples, **each according to his ability**, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.”*

*2 Corinthians 8:12 “For if there is first a willing mind, **it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.**”*

An Example of Authority

How should we give?

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

An Example of Authority

How should we give?

2 Corinthians 8:1-3 “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing...”

An Example of Authority

How should we give?

Mark 12:41-44 “Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

An Example of Authority

How should we give?

Acts 2:44-45 “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.”

An Example of Authority

How should we give?

*Acts 4:32, 34-35 “Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. ³⁴ Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; **for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, ³⁵ and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.***

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An Example of Authority

We see, then that our giving should be...

- *On the first day of the week*
- *As we have prospered*
- *According to our ability*
- *As we have purposed in our hearts*
- *Willingly*
- *Cheerfully, not grudgingly*

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An Example of Authority

We have also seen examples of giving in which Christians “abounded in the riches of their liberality,” and in which the giving was deeply sacrificial...

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An Example of Authority

These are all examples of giving "to the Lord," in a collective manner so that the work He has given us to do can be accomplished.

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An Example of Authority

There is no scripture that speaks of a church treasury as such. The closest is Paul's instructions to lay by in store on the first day of the week so that there would "be no gatherings when I come."

An Example of Authority

Collections made before he came that were to be given to him when he arrived had to be kept somewhere. Wherever they were kept and by whatever name they were called, they constituted a treasury.

An Example of Authority

How, scripturally, can the Lord's money be used?

God has given the church work to do. It is generally broken down into three areas – benevolence, edification of the saints, and evangelism. The monies contributed to “the Lord’s work” may and must be used to do the work of the church, and may not and must not be used to do anything else.

Let's first look at scriptural benevolence...

An Example of Authority

Who can receive benevolence from the church?

*Acts 2:44-45 “Now **all who believed** were together, and had all things in common,⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.”*

An Example of Authority

Who can receive benevolence from the church?

*Acts 4:32, 34-35 “Now the multitude of **those who believed** were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.³⁴ Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold,³⁵ and laid them at the apostles' feet; **and they distributed to each as anyone had need.**”*

An Example of Authority

Who can receive benevolence from the church?

*Acts 11:29 “Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the **brethren** dwelling in Judea.”*

*1 Corinthians 16:1 “Now concerning the collection **for the saints**, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also.”*

An Example of Authority

Who can receive benevolence from the church?

*Romans 15:25-26 “But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister **to the saints**.²⁶ For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution **for the poor among the saints** who are in Jerusalem.”*

An Example of Authority

Who can receive benevolence from the church?

*2 Corinthians 9:1 “Now concerning the ministering to **the saints**, it is superfluous for me to write to you.”*

*2 Corinthians 9:12 “For the administration of this service not only supplies **the needs of the saints**, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God...”*

An Example of Authority

Who can receive benevolence from the church?

*Acts 6:1-2 “Now in those days, when the number of **the disciples** was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because **their widows** were neglected in the daily distribution.*

An Example of Authority

Who can receive benevolence from the church?

1 Timothy 5:16 “If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.”

Not even a woman who is a Christian can be helped from the money collected if she has one who can and should be helping her!

An Example of Authority

Who can receive benevolence from the church?

Consider this: Has God ever given the church a task or responsibility it cannot fulfill?

It is not possible for the Lord’s church to take care of the benevolent needs of the world!

An Example of Authority

The previous verses show the limitation of benevolence from the “treasury” to those who are believers.

Does that mean Christians can’t or shouldn’t help those who are not Christians?

Of course not! We just do that as individuals!

An Example of Authority

There is authority given for individuals to show benevolence toward Christians and to unbelievers.

1 John 3:17, “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

Galatians 6:10 “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” {written to individuals}

An Example of Authority

How, scripturally, can the Lord's money be used?

God has given the church work to do. It is generally broken down into three areas – benevolence, edification of the saints, and evangelism. The monies contributed to “the Lord’s work” may and must be used to do the work of the church, and may not and must not be used to do anything else.

An Example of Authority

How, scripturally, can the Lord's money be used?

Again, God has given the church work to do. It is generally broken down into three areas – benevolence, edification of the saints, and evangelism. The monies contributed to “the Lord’s work” may and must be used to do the work of the church, and may not and must not be used to do anything else.

Now, let's look at edification and evangelism...

An Example of Authority

How, scripturally, can the Lord's money be used?

*1 Corinthians 9:9-12 "For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? ¹⁰ Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. ¹¹ **If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things?** ¹² If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more?"*

An Example of Authority

How, scripturally, can the Lord's money be used?

The following scriptures demonstrate the right of preachers of the gospel to receive wages.

An Example of Authority

How, scripturally, can the Lord's money be used?

*Philippians 4:15-16 "Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me **concerning giving and receiving** but you only.
¹⁶ For even in **Thessalonica** you sent aid once and again for my necessities."*

An Example of Authority

How, scripturally, can the Lord's money be used?

*2 Corinthians 11:7-8 "Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?
⁸ I robbed {took money from} other churches, **taking wages from them to minister to you.**"*

An Example of Authority

In a previous lesson, we discussed the new testament church had elders...

The authority for appointing elders comes from the following passages:

An Example of Authority

*Titus 1:5 “For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders in every city** as I commanded you.”*

*Acts 14:23 “So when they had appointed elders in **every church**, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”*

An Example of Authority

Were there any limitations to the scope of the authority of the elders?

Acts 20:28 “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the **flock, among which** the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.”

An Example of Authority

*1 Peter 5:1-4 “The elders **who are among you** I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² **Shepherd the flock of God which is among you**, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples **to the flock**; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

"

An Example of Authority

So we see that elders have authority with regards to
“the flock of God which is among you.”

They served as **“overseers.”**

You cannot “oversee” anything you can not “see over!”

Why is this an important point?

"

An Example of Authority

In the 1950’s and 60’s, some churches developed
the concept of the **“sponsoring church.”**

Under that concept, elders of some congregations
wanted to improve on the Lord’s plan, and have the
elders of the **“sponsoring church”** oversee a work
larger than they could afford from their individual
church treasury.

An Example of Authority

These elders contacted other congregations of the Lord's church across the nation and asked them to send money to them so they could afford to build larger programs of evangelism.

Examples of these programs:

- a very expensive television "evangelism" program
- taking over the training of new preachers
- Centralizing the sending of preachers into the "mission field."

An Example of Authority

These elders said they would "**oversee**" these large, ambitious programs that would reach more people and convert more people to the Lord.

This plan clearly violates the autonomy of the local congregation as well as God's design to have local elders responsible for the work and worship of the "**flock which is among them.**"

"

An Example of Authority

In **every** example of providing financial support to a man preaching the gospel, the support is given **directly** to the preacher.

There are **no** examples of congregations sending support to one congregation and having that congregation's elders oversee the distribution of those funds!

"

An Example of Authority

What is the result of doing it man's way?

Hundreds of different denominations!

It's this simple.
Let's just do **what** God asked us to do
the way He told us to do it!

Old Testament, New Testament

Question: If you say the Old Law has been “nailed to the cross” and is no longer in effect, why do you use examples from the Old Testament, such as Nadab and Abihu and Uzzah? Isn’t that being inconsistent?

Excellent question!

Old Testament, New Testament

What is the proper use of the Old Testament?

1 Corinthians 10:11 “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

Romans 15:4 “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

Old Testament, New Testament

What is the proper use of the Old Testament?

So we have examples which were written for our admonition and learning...

What do we learn from these examples?

Old Testament, New Testament

We learn from Nadab & Abihu, Uzzah, Nahaman, Ananias & Saphira (in the New Testament) and so many others, that God is serious when He specifies **how** He wants things done.

This has to do with His **character**, and that doesn't change from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

God has shown justice and mercy {grace} in both the Old and New Testaments!

Old Testament, New Testament

Then just exactly what has changed from the Old Testament to the New Testament?

The Law!

Old Testament, New Testament

*Colossians 2:13-14 “He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the **handwriting of requirements** that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, **having nailed it to the cross.**”*

Jesus did not nail the Old Testament to the cross...

He nailed the old law {Law of Moses} to the cross!

Old Testament, New Testament

*Hebrews 7:12-13 “For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a **change of the law.**”*

We are no longer under the law God gave to Moses, but we should still use the Old Testament to learn about God, His character, and how He defines morality!

This includes how He dealt with those who chose to ignore his authority on any matter...

Old Testament, New Testament

*Galatians 3:19, 23-25 “What purpose then does **the law** serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made. 23-25 “But before faith came, we were kept under guard by **the law**, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore **the law** was our **tutor** to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, **we are no longer under a tutor.**”*

We are no longer under the old law...

Old Testament, New Testament

Does that mean we are no longer under law?

Mankind has always been under law to God.

Then what law are we now under?

Old Testament, New Testament

Romans 8:1-5 “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Old Testament, New Testament

Both the Old and New Testament clearly teach how God feels about adding to or subtracting from to His revealed word.

Deuteronomy 4:2 Don't add or subtract

Deuteronomy 12:32 Don't add or subtract

Revelation 22:18-19 Don't add or subtract

Old Testament, New Testament

To summarize...

When we want to learn about God's nature and character - or His expectations of us morally - go to the Old and New Testament...

When we want to know more about what God specifically has authorized and wants with regard to our spiritual work and worship, we must rely upon the New Testament alone!

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