Record 17

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x An argument can be made that it must. A very strong argument can be made that there is no requirement in this direction. Strong arguments can be made in both directions. The Lord could easily have solved it one way or another with some definite statement. He could have had the apostles say, I am writing to you of Greece and I recognize that we at Palestine have no authority over you of Greece. I am merely telling you what I think that Christ would have you do. But he didn't say any such thing. Paul siad to them, he said, they say that his letters are vague and strong and he orders us around, but his physical presence is mild and weak. He says that when I get to Corinth you will find out that my physical authority is pretty strong, too. Paul claims a pretty strong authority as to what he is going to do to them. Well, now, is he claiming this authority because he represents the church at Rome, certainly not. Did he claim it because he represetned the church at Jerusalem or at Antioch. An arguemtn might be made to that effect. If he claimed it because he is an apostle of Christ, a big argument can be made that that is the reason he calimed it. If he claims it as an apostle of Christ, then does this autority which he has as an apostle pass on to someone or some officila in the next generation. The N.T. nowhere says that it does. Does it not? The N.T. says nowhere that it doesn't. In other words, we are left with a question ther, which the N.T. does not clearly decide. There is evidence thatthere was a great interdependence, a great relationship of looking to different sections for not only advice but for definite orders in the time of the apostles. There is such emphasis. But, a strong argument can be made that this authority was a temporary thing which ceased with the apostles, and yet even that is nowehre clearly stated in the Scriputres. And certainly the contrary is nowhere stated that the authority continues. So the question which was raised, is one on which I think it is important that we realize the clear situation that the N.T. does not state nor deny it. I think that is important.

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