

Letter 620  
**Don't Blame the Messengers**  
 2017-09-10

Dear **Jesus**,

In American Judicial history, a legal doctrine has been established by both legislative act and case law in which certain entities are considered “common carriers”, and as such cannot generally be held culpable in prosecution or court proceeding regarding a crime that was planned and or committed by persons using the carrier service for the purpose of planning and carrying out their crimes. This doctrine also applies to those entities who serve as common carriers of voice and electronic data such as Telephone Companies and Internet Service Providers.

Wikipedia.com says this about common carriers, specifically those in the World of Communications:

*“The FCC classified Internet Service Providers as common carriers, effective June 12, 2015, for the purpose of enforcing net neutrality.[6] Before that time, the Good Samaritan provision of the Communications Decency Act established immunity from liability for third party content on grounds of libel or slander, and the DMCA established that ISPs that comply with the DMCA would not be liable for the copyright violations of third parties on their network.”*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common\\_carrier#Telecommunications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_carrier#Telecommunications)

A short time ago I was reading an exchange on the internet between two Brothers (CB51) and (CB52), who were arguing whether fallen angels and demons could at any time be saved from their sins.

The Brother who was pro-salvation, (CB51), used as one of his proof texts the Seven Letters to the all the Churches and “he who has an ear”, recorded in the Book of Revelation, chapters 2 and 3.

(CB51)’s assertion was that since the Letters were addressed to the Angels of the Churches, it must needs be that You would hold them to to the same standard as that of the Churches, including Your commandment to repent.

As I was thinking and contemplating this debate before the Lord, I began to remember various Scriptures which would exonerate the angels and get them “off-the-hook”, as it were. The following is my research into the matter, with my drawn conclusion written thereafter.

**Matthew 28:18** (NKJV)

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

**Acts 14:23** (NKJV)

So when they had **appointed elders in every church**, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

**Acts 15:4** (NKJV)

And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the **apostles** and **the elders**; and they reported all things that God had done with them.

**Acts 15:6** (NKJV)

Now the apostles and **elders** came together to consider this matter.

**Acts 15:13, 19** (NKJV)

And after they had become silent, **James** answered, saying, “Men and brethren, listen to me: (...) **Therefore I judge** that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,

**Acts 15:22** (NKJV)

Then it pleased the **apostles** and **elders**, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.

**Acts 20:17** (NKJV)

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the **elders of the church**.

**Acts 21:18** (NKJV)

On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and **all the elders** were present.

**1 Timothy 5:17-19** (NKJV)

Let **the elders** who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.” Do not receive an accusation against an **elder** except from two or three witnesses.

**Titus 1:5** (NKJV) 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—

**James 5:14** (NKJV)

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for **the elders of the church**, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

**1 Peter 5:1-4** (NKJV)

**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: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, **servicing as overseers**, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but **being examples to the flock**; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

**1 Peter 5:5-7 (NKJV)**

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to **your elders**. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for

“God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble.”

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

**The Son Exalted Above Angels****Hebrews 1:5-14 (NKJV)**

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say:

“You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You”? And again:

“I will be to Him a Father,

And He shall be to Me a Son”?

6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

“Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

**7 And of the angels He says:**

“Who makes His **angels** spirits

And His **ministers** a flame of fire.”

**8 But to the Son He says:**

**“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;**

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You

With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

10 And:

“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,

And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

11 They will perish, but You remain;

And they will all grow old like a garment;

12 Like a cloak You will fold them up,

And they will be changed.

But You are the same,

And Your years will not fail.”

13 But to which of the **angels** has He ever said:

“Sit at My right hand,

Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?

**14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**

**Hebrews 2:1-5** (NKJV) 1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to **be spoken by the Lord**, and was confirmed to us by **those who heard Him**, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

**5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.**

**1 Peter 3:21-22** (NKJV)

There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, **angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.**

**Revelation 4:2-4** (NKJV)

Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw

**twenty-four elders sitting,**

clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

**Revelation 4:9-11** (NKJV)

Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, **the twenty-four elders** fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

“You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were created.”

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Based on the above Scriptures, it seems clear to me that in the Church, all authority is Yours, and is delegated to the Church within the established structure of authority as revealed in the text; specifically Your authority in the Church rests upon and within the **Apostles** and **Elders**.

In my studies I could find no doctrine indicating that You give angels any authority to rule over anything in the Church. In fact, quite the opposite can be found in sections of the Book of Hebrews quoted above, and in this verse:

*Do you not know that we shall judge angels?  
How much more, things that pertain to this life?*

**1 Corinthians 6:3**

The angels of the Seven Churches are messengers that have no rulership or authority in the Church. They are neither being charged with any indiscretion or commended for performing their due diligence. Your Words to the Seven Churches are to the **Elders** and the **Churches**, exclusively. The angelic messengers\* only task was to convey the Letters to the Churches, and to “he who has an ear”, as the Spirit leads.

Lord Jesus, to sum things up, You rule the Churches by communicating Your will and Word to the Elders of the Churches through the Holy Spirit. Angels are there to help in a variety of ways, but they have no authority in the Church, therefore they are not held responsible for any actions, or lack thereof, of the Churches. The Elders and all the Churches are the ones You hold responsible.

Does anyone blame the Post-man for delivering tax return audit announcements from the Internal Revenue Service, along with the rest of the mail? He’s just doing his job. So were the Angels of the Churches, then and now.

\*Brother (CB52) seems to believe that the angels of each of the Seven Churches were human messengers. I personally think it much more likely to be true that there were both human and non-human messengers involved with the distribution of the Letters.

Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus