

SOMETIMES SCRIPTURAL SILENCE FORBIDS

Those who divided the church over a century ago by forcing in the missionary society and the instrument had to deny the significance of Scriptural silence concerning both innovations. The fall-back position of all innovators of unauthorized things in religion has always been, “The Bible doesn’t forbid it.” Some liberal brethren of our time are doing the same thing in their crusade for union with the Independent Christian Church (ICC). We expect those in the ICC to try to negate the force of Scriptural silence, but we **do not** expect our own brethren to surrender it as casually as some are doing.

“Where the Bible is silent we are silent,” more than any other one principle of Biblical interpretation, has been responsible for the restoration and maintenance of New Testament Christianity over the past two centuries. Through the same “hole in the wall” of Scriptural authority that was made for instrumental music (because “the Bible doesn’t forbid it”), others have brought in countless other innovations (burning incense, counting beads, using water and loaf bread on the Lord’s table, et al.)

These folk are wrong when they say the Bible doesn’t forbid the use of instruments in worship and similar innovations. All they can claim is that “The Bible doesn’t **explicitly** forbid instrumental music in worship.” They refuse to admit the fact that the Bible **implicitly** forbids things by its mere silence concerning them. It would be interesting to hear a debate between an it’s-not-condemned-in-the-Bible instrumentalist of the ICC and an ICC man who contends for milk and cornbread on the Lord’s table. The milk-and-cornbread contender would have lost the debate before it started, although both combatants would be in error.

Respect for the silence of Scripture, involving the “law of authorization and non-authorization,” is rooted in Scripture itself. Simply put, when God specifies what He wants man to do or how He wants man to do a certain thing, He simultaneously **includes** what He wants and **implicitly excludes** (i.e., forbids) every other thing in that class. We naturally and unconsciously use this principle every day.

When a song leader says, “Please turn to number 100,” he implicitly **excludes** every other song by **including** the song specified. (Does anyone ever reason, “He didn’t say **not** to sing number 200, which I like better, so I will sing it”?) Noah **respected** this principle, using only gopher wood in building the ark. Although there was no **explicit** prohibition of other wood varieties, Noah obviously understood the **implicit** prohibition (Gen. 6:14, 22). Nadab and Abihu **did not respect** God’s silence and God consumed them for offering “strange fire,” not because He anywhere **explicitly forbade it**, but because it was fire “...which he [God] **commanded them not**” (Lev. 10:1, emph. DM). That fire was “strange” (i.e., prohibited, unauthorized) simply because **God was silent** about its use.

Inspired men of the first century understood and applied this principle. There was **no authority** to bind circumcision on Christians, not because of an explicit apostolic prohibition, but because inspired men were **silent** concerning it (Acts 15:24). God excluded/prohibited any angel from being His Son or reigning at His right hand by His **silence** concerning any such position for them (Heb. 1:5, 13). The Christ could not be a priest in Israel (Heb. 8:4), because He was of Judah, “...as to which tribe Moses **spake nothing** concerning priests” (Heb. 7:14, emph., DM). If inspired writers used this principle to interpret and apply Scripture, then so must we. The Lord’s people greatly need a strong renewal of emphasis on the validity of this principle. Liberals know that they must somehow overturn this principle to be fully successful in their agenda of apostasy.

Dub McClish, Denton, TX



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Bible Classes for all ages 10:00 am. Bible Classes for all ages 7:00 p.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 am.
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Choose Wisely

Throughout life everyone is confronted with making thousands of choices. These choices will range from the very simple choice of what one has for lunch, to the very complex choice of choosing vacation or one’s life companion.

The most important choice anyone will ever make is to whom they will serve. All people are serving someone. Some people choose to serve Jesus, while most choose to serve the devil. The choice to serve Satan can be a direct choice or it can be indirect by not choosing to serve the Lord. No one can be neutral or escape from making a choice. Jesus said, “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad” (Mat. 12:30). One cannot live for the devil and serve the Lord. A conscience decision must be made to serve Christ Jesus. It is written:

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon(6:24).

Joshua was a great man of God. He chose to follow the Lord and lead his family in the heavenly direction. He said:

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Jos. 24:15).

The apostle Paul made the very same discussion in following the Lord. He said, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phi. 1:21). Paul chose to live daily for the Lord. Jesus has given all mankind the choice to make, to follow Him or the devil. It is man’s responsibility to choose. The choice is yours. Choose wisely.

*Paul Vaughn
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“FOR SALE”

We often see signs that proudly announce “house for sale.” But recently I have noticed that one local realtor uses signs that read “home for sale.” I hope that the sign means that a “house” that is for sale and not a “home”! When one thinks about a “house,” one usually has reference to the physical structure but when one thinks about a “home” he usually has reference to those who reside there making up the home. Indeed, a part of the definition for “home,” as given in Merriam-Webster’s dictionary is, “the social unit formed by a family living together.”

Sadly, though, it seems that more and more in our society today, the home is up for sale. What should be “a family living together” is so easily broken up since divorce is so readily available for about any and every reason and, indeed, no reason at all. It is one thing to tear down a house, and sometimes houses need tearing down as they have reached the point where they are no longer fit for human habitation. However, to tear down a home is a totally different proposition. Sadly, too many children are growing up in a situation where the home has been broken and they are not living together in a family unit with the mother and father that bore them. The tragedy of broken homes is all about us. Ask those who teach the children in school. When children come from broken homes they are more likely to have difficulties in school as well as them becoming discipline problems. Ask those who are involved in law enforcement. The majority of young people that get involved in criminal activity come from broken homes.

As Christians we should do all that we can to uphold the teaching of God’s Word concerning home and family. We should seek to set the right kind of example in our relationships that our homes may remain intact and that our children can have the opportunity to be raised in a home that is not broken and that they may desire to have such for themselves. We need, also, to do all that we can to help those who are the victims of broken homes so that the trauma of the broken home may be overcome that they might have happy and successful lives and be able to build good strong homes in the future.

For some time when traveling Interstate 20 to Atlanta, there was a sign that stated, “Church Building For Sale” near Conyers, GA. That surprised me! Not because a church building was up for sale, but for the fact that someone had got it right! It was the physical structure that was up for sale, not the congregation, the religious group, that had met in that building. Too many, even among our brethren, refer to the physical structure in which the church meets as being the “church.” The Bible clearly teaches that the church is the people and not the building in which the church meets. We read in the scriptures of churches meeting in the homes of brethren, in school buildings (the school of Tyrannus, for instance).

However, we do find instances where it seems that the church is up for sale. Too many brethren are willing, it seems, to sell out the church of the Lord. Some to bring in innovations that are not authorized by the Bible, others who want to bind where the Lord has not bound. Then there are others in their desire to fellowship those that God has stated are not to be fellowshiped, unrepentant false teachers, and in so doing have sold out the Lord’s church.

Brethren, the Lord’s church is **NOT** for sale. We need to be always willing to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3) at whatever cost. We need to labor so that our children and our children’s children will be able to know and love and be members of the Lord’s body, the church that He purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28).

Brethren, our “homes” should not be up for sale and neither should the church of our Lord!

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron’s sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Matthew Aaron will graduate from North Augusta High School Thursday, June 3 at the USC – Aiken Convocation Center. Glenn and Maomi will be hosting a graduation party at their home, 1018 McKenzie Street, North Augusta on June 12 at 5.00 p.m. All of the members of the congregation are invited. Please RSVP to Glenn and Maomi so that they can know how many to cater for.

Jean Peebles has been down with leg problems this week and has been taking medicines. Her daughter, Betty Peebles, is home again right now. She still has some infection and when that is cleared she will go to Charleston, SC for surgery. Keep them in your prayers.

Young People Who Are Admired

Those who have the backbone to stand spiritually erect.

Those who are unselfish, willing to give all for Jesus.

Those who are willing to be taught the great principles of Jesus.

Those who say “no” to evil temptations of life.

Those who conduct themselves as Christians in public or private.

Those who do not appear to “know it all” but are willing to learn more.

Those who delight in holding themselves above common or base things.

Those who enjoy living righteously in and before the sinful world, their peers.

Those who never lie nor seek to deceive their parents.

Those who always live to obey their parents in the Lord.

Those whose religious zeal grows as they develop maturity.

Author unknown