

Speak Where the Bible Speaks and Be Silent Where the Bible Is Silent

(Conclusion -- Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. "If it were the case that anything not expressly forbidden in the New Testament is permissible in the Christian religion, then we could not only use pianos to accompany our singing but beads to aid our prayers, crucifixes to focus our devotion, and hashish to enhance our sensitivity. We could also initiate an organizational network similar to that which has been protested so strongly in Catholicism or begin financing church projects with bingo games (where legal) on Tuesday evenings. Not one of these things is explicitly forbidden in the New Testament, and no one who denies the legitimacy of the authority principle as outlined above can consistently argue against any of them." (*Shelly, Rubel. 1987. Sing His Praise—A Case for Acapella Music as Worship Today. Nashville, TN: 20th Century Christian, p. 33-34*)

B. It is absolutely critical that every human be able to understand the Bible. It is the book that reveals:

1. How this world was made, Who created it, and how we came to be
2. Our purpose for being, where we are going, and how to get there
3. How to come to know the Creator of this world, how to worship the Preparer of the world to come, and how to obey the Designer of the Way to get there

C. We must:

1. Trust God to tell us exactly what we need to know and do
2. Trust that He has done so fully and effectively in the Bible
3. Trust that we can read and understand exactly what we must do
4. Then do only those things He has specified in His book without augmentation or adjustments

I. WHEN PEOPLE ACT WITHOUT GOD'S AUTHORITY

A. Leviticus 8 & 9 records ten times that Aaron, Nadab and Abihu did just as the Lord commanded. Then the Sons of Aaron broke that pattern of obedience after the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people.

1. Lev. 1:7-8, 9:23-24, 10:1-3

B. King Saul on his own initiative believed that because he was king he could offer a sacrifice at Gilgal - 1Sam. 10:8, 13:8-14

1. He was told to wait; that excluded all other considerations or options

C. King David presumed to adjust what God commanded regarding the transportation of the Ark of the Covenant - 1Chron. 13:9-10

1. David became angry at the Lord's punishment of Uzzah, just as some become angry today at the instruction that God will not accept their good intentions apart from His specific commands. But what men see as harmless, is not necessarily so to God.

2. After consulting the Law, David understood no one was to carry the Ark but the Levites - 1Chron. 15:2, 12-15

D. King David had difficulty remembering the law of silence - 2Sam. 7:1-9

1. Since God did not think it and speak it, humankind may not do it

2. He resents it when humans combine His authorized worship with their unauthorized works - Jer. 7:30-31

II. GOD HAS ALWAYS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS WORD IS BINDING

- A. In the Old Testament - Jer. 6:16, 23:16, 32-34
- B. New Testament - Col. 2:20-23; 1Cor. 4:6; Acts 15:1-2, 24; Heb. 1:5, 7:14
- C. Ex. 28:1 - It is about service to God by those He created; it is not about men serving themselves and expecting God to be pleased
 1. It is amazing how men presume the right to speak and act on their own initiative and therefore do what neither the Lord Jesus nor the Holy Spirit dared to do - 2John 9
 2. Respect for the silence of scripture move the restoration disciples to refuse instrumental music in worship and to refuse to create a national organization to manage the work of the church.
- D. God expects us to respect and obey His most recent command
 1. Ex. 17:6; Num. 20:8-12
- E. God wants us to accept what He has had written without twisting it into what we want it to mean - 2Peter 3:15-16

Conclusion:

- A. Joshua 23:6; 1Thes. 2:13; Col. 3:17, 2:7