

God's Thunderous Silence!

Last month we noticed that the silence of Scripture does not give us permission to take any action. Rather, God's silence is prohibitive, especially when He has clearly stated His will. Just as we should have respected our parent's instructions – to obey their wishes rather than our own – even more so must we respect God's Will and His silence (Heb 7:14; Acts 15:24; see also Jer 19:5; Prov 30:6). A Christian is free to serve God within the limits of Jesus' teaching (John 12:48; 16:13; Gal 1:6-12; 2 Pet 1:3; Jas 1:25). To know these limits requires our continuous and diligent study and meditation (2 Tim 2:15; 1 Tim 4:15; Psa 1:1-2). Below are a few examples of how the principle of God's silence applies.

- God commands Christians to sing for the purpose of worship, teaching, warning and rejoicing; He is silent regarding any other form of music used by Christians for these purposes (Jn 4:24; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Jas 5:13).
- The apostles and the early church observed Jesus' death on the first day of the week; God is silent regarding the partaking of the Lord's Supper on any other day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 11; cf. 1 Cor 16:2).
- The apostles baptized those who believed the good news about Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41); God is silent regarding the baptism of those who are incapable of belief.
- Immersion in water was the mode of baptism used by the apostles and early evangelists (Acts 8:36-39; Rom 6:4); God is silent regarding sprinkling or pouring as an acceptable mode of baptizing penitent sinners into Christ (Gal 3:27). {Look for the final article on this topic next month. Thank you for reading!}

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.