

“OUR NEED FOR BIBLICAL AUTHORITY” (#7)

Introduction

- I. We cannot completely understand the subject of Bible authority if we are not familiar with God’s silence. The purpose of this lesson is to help us understand that God’s silence is as authoritative as what He has revealed!
- II. Some are confused on the subject of God’s silence:
 - A. Some say: “If God has not expressly forbidden it, then it is OK.” (I.E., God didn’t say not to!)
 - B. Some say: “Since I can’t read about _____ in the Bible, then it has to be wrong.” (This may sound correct, but bear in mind, we cannot read about microphones, air conditioning, cars, semis, giraffes, computers, radios, assembly-line manufacturing, etc. in the Bible, either!)
 - C. Some say: “This study is unimportant. You’re being ‘nit-picky,’ Pharisaical, etc.”
- III. What is the truth about God’s silence in the Scripture? Let us study together and find out!

Discussion

I. GOD MUST REVEAL HIMSELF TO MAN:

- A. All we know about God and His will comes from what He has revealed! (Some categorize this as: general/specific revelation)
 - 1. **General revelation** reveals God to us. How has God done this (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:20)? _____
 - 2. **Specific revelation** reveals God’s will to us. How has God done this (Psalm 19:7-11; I Corinthians 2:9-13)? _____
- B. We cannot somehow “read” God’s mind. We can only know what pleases Him when we take the time to read and study what has been revealed.
 - 1. God has revealed to us all we need to know (II Peter 1:3). He gave us “*all things that pertain to _____ and _____.*”
 - 2. We cannot act or speak beyond what is authorized in God’s word. In essence, we are “fenced in” by God’s word (and this for our protection!). Read II John 9 and explain how one is “fenced in” (protected) by God’s word. _____
- C. Regardless of the subject, (worship, work of the church, personal growth, righteous examples, salvation, etc.) we will only please God when we respect what God has revealed!
- D. There are several passages which establish that God authorizes things based upon what He has revealed, not upon His silence. Examples:
 - 1. Deuteronomy 29:29 – The secret/hidden things belong to _____. Those things revealed belong to _____.
 - 2. Hebrews 1:5-6 – Which angel was told he was God’s Son? _____ The angels were told to worship _____.
 - 3. I Peter 4:11 – “*If any man _____ let him _____ the _____ of God.*”

II. WE CANNOT ASSUME ANYTHING WHEN GOD IS SILENT:

- A. In Old Testament days, what was the “reward” for acting when God was silent? (Deuteronomy 18:20) _____
- B. David asked that God keep him from _____ sins (Psalm 19:13).
- C. Read II Peter 1:3 again. If God gave us “*all things that pertain to life and godliness,*” then if it is not authorized of God, it cannot be _____.
- D. II Timothy 3:16-17 says God’s inspired word equips us for every “_____.” Therefore, if something is not authorized of God, it is not a “_____”.
- E. The silence of God does not allow us to do anything. We get no blessing when we act when God is

III. DETERMINING WHERE/WHEN GOD'S SILENCE APPLIES:

- A. There are many times when God's silence absolutely prohibits our action. From our studies on authority thus far, do you know when God's silence prohibits? _____
- B. Some Biblical examples of God's silence prohibiting actions:
 - 1. Numbers 9:6-8 – Why didn't Moses just allow those men to eat the Passover? _____
 - 2. Leviticus 10:1-2 – What was the reason Nadab and Abihu were killed? _____
 - 3. Hebrews 7:12-14, 8:4 – Why could Jesus not have been a priest on earth? _____
- C. Take note of the key factor in each of these situations: God had stated a SPECIFIC command! Therefore, they had no _____!

IV. ANSWERING A POPULAR MISCONCEPTION:

- A. *Exercise: Three grocery lists* -- List #1: Milk, Fruit, Steak.
List #2: Milk, Fruit, Bread, Hamburger.
List #3: White bread, Apples, Sugar, a Dozen Ears of Corn
 - 1. Which list(s) was silent about buying bread? _____
 - 2. Which list(s) specifically said to buy white bread? _____
 - 3. Which list(s) allows you to buy white bread? _____
- B. Sometimes, folks say, "Since I can't read about _____ in the Bible, then it has to be wrong." This phrase is not necessarily true!
 - 1. Go back to lesson #6. Remember that there are times when expediencies are necessary for obeying God's word.
 - a. A key truth to determining what is "expedient" is that it must not be _____.
 - b. If a thing is specified, what "choices" do we have? _____
 - 2. Only when authority is _____ do we have options! Therefore
 - a. Even though God did not specifically tell us to use chalkboards, papers, or microphones, they are authorized expedients because God said _____.
 - b. Even though God did not specifically tell us to use a baptistery, bathtub, or horse trough, these are authorized expedients because God said _____.
 - c. Even though God did not specifically tell us to use songbooks, pitch pipes, or notes on a page, these are authorized expedients because God said _____.
- C. Silence of the Scripture prohibits when:
 - 1. We can find no authority at all to speak or act. (see: point #2 above)
 - 2. God's specific command excludes everything else in the category. (see: point #3 above)
- D. Let us be cautious that we respect the silence of God. Let us also recognize that when God has given us general authority, the expediencies we use are not in the realm of God's silence, though **they are not specifically mentioned!**

Conclusion

- I. We must be careful to operate only where God has revealed the truth.
- II. We have enough to do trying to follow what God has revealed without going into the realm of God's silence!

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