

# ***“But The Bible Doesn’t Say Not To”***

Heb. 7:11-14

## ***I. What Was Jesus’ Attitude Toward The Word Of God?***

- Matt. 4:1-11 → 3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.
- 4 But he answered and said, It is written, ***Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*** (Matt. 19:3-4; 22:29; Lk. 10:26; Matt. 5:18; Rev. 22:18-19)
- 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,
- 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.
- What Was Jesus’ Attitude Toward The Word Of God?***
- 7 Jesus said unto him, ***It is written again***, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.
- 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;
- 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.
- 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, ***Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*** (Deut. 29:29)

## ***II. What Is To Be Our Attitude Toward The Silence Of God’s Word?***

- Many argue for their beliefs or practices by saying, “the Bible doesn’t say not to”
  - The Bible does not say do not have mechanical instruments of music, a choir, have ball teams, dominoes, bake sales, have special services for Easter and Christmas, to build, maintain or support schools, hospitals, orphan homes from the church treasury...
  - Many believe that God’s silence permits them to act.
    - Say, “we can do anything not specifically prohibited”.
    - Say, “when the scriptures say nothing we are at liberty to act”
- Lesson: God’s silence is not permissive. It does not furnish authority for anything.

## ***III. Old Testament Illustrations...***

- Israel between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. (Ex. 14:1-31)
  - Fearful. (10); Begin to despair. (11-12)
  - What are they to do? Turn back? Plea for mercy? Something other than what they were presently doing? They could have argued “God didn’t say not to”.
  - Moses told them to “stand still” (13); “Hold your peace” (14) That is what they were to do in the absence of instructions from God.
  - Only when God spoke were they to go forward. (15)
  - God’s way works, and we must place our faith in his word without presuming upon it.
  - God expected them to stay within the limits of what he said, and in the absence of communication from Him they were not at liberty to act.
- How should the blasphemer be punished? (Lev. 24:10-16)
  - Here was a violation of the second commandment. What were they supposed to do?
  - They put held him in custody till the mind of the Lord was revealed. (12)
  - They could have argued, “God didn’t say don’t drown, burn or behead him...”
  - God specified stoning. (14)
    - If God had simply said, “Execute him” they would have been at liberty to have chosen among options.
    - God’s silence did not authorize them to act...only his word. (cf. Num. 15:32-36)
- When could the unclean observe the Passover? (Num. 9:4-12)
  - God had commanded that the Passover was to be observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month.
  - Here the specific case: some had come into contact with a corpse and had become unclean. What were they to do? Some today would have argued, why can’t we offer...I know the Bible says...but why can’t we...?

–Moses said “stand still” (8). They had no right to act without authority from God. They were not authorized to change the day, even though in a tough situation.

- God is to be worshipped according to what he has revealed, and not according to man’s wishes...what pleases him. (Jn. 4:24; Col. 2:23)

- When God is silent, we are to stand still without presuming on His word. Silence authorizes nothing.

#### **IV New Testament Teaching Regarding God’s Silence**

- Heb. 7:11-14 → **12** For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also. **13** For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar. **14** For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests. (NASB)

- II Jn. 9 → Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God;

- I Pet. 4:11, Acts 15:24

#### **Conclusion**

- What is silence? (when God says nothing)

- The absence of communication; the opposite of speech.

- Only God’s word (communication) provides authority for us.

- His silence, absence of communication, does not authorize anything. Silence does not provide the right to act.

- Why is God silent on some matters?

- Not because he forgot. (Gen. 17:1; Ps. 147:5)

- He intentionally chose to omit it.

- Because He chose not to reveal or provide authority

- Who are we to insert from human wisdom things that God has left out?

- Rev. 22:18-19

- Dt. 29:29

- II Tim. 3:16-17