

Would you argue that His silence does not sanction it and that you would have to have His Word to authorize the use of any other kinds of wood? Shouldn't it follow then that the silence of the New Testament does not authorize the use of mechanical instruments in New Testament worship?

WASN'T GOD SILENT ABOUT THE KIND OF FIRE USED BY NADAB AND ABIHU?

“And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon and offered strange fire before the Lord which he commanded them not” (Lev. 10:1). What did they do? They did something God had not commanded. They used a kind of fire about which God was silent. Did His silence give sanction to what they did? If such were sanctioned, why were they punished for such? Would God by His silence sanction a practice, and then punish those for doing what He sanctioned? You and I know better. We wouldn't dare argue that His silence gave sanction to what they did but we do have to admit that God was indeed silent about the kind of fire they did use.

WASN'T GOD SILENT ABOUT THE NEED OF GENTILES TO BE CIRCUMCISED TO BE SAVED UNDER THE GOSPEL?

Do you remember those who went from Jerusalem to Antioch saying such was the case (Acts 15:1-2)? Do you recall that the apostles and elders met in Jerusalem about this question? Do you remember that they sent an epistle back to Antioch and other places saying, “We gave no such commandment” (Acts 15:24)? They were silent concerning the necessity for Gentiles to be circumcised. To add such to God's requirement for salvation was equal to the invasion of God's silence. This would constitute an addition and perversion. For men to add the mechanical instrument to N.T. worship is no less an invasion of God's silence.

Heartland Herald

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WASN'T GOD SILENT ABOUT WASHING HANDS BEFORE EATING?

Some would add such and seek to have the Lord endorse it, but to no avail (Matt. 15:1-9). Jesus showed such to be nothing more than a human tradition. It has its origin with men and not with God. God was silent concerning such and Jesus did not accept that as authorization to bind such on His disciples.

WASN'T GOD SILENT CONCERNING ONE SERVING AS A PRIEST UNDER THE LAW FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH?

One has but to read the following, “For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood” (Heb. 7:13-14). The Hebrews writer used this as an argument to show that Jesus was of a higher order of priest. Wouldn't you think the overall priesthood would be better by having one perfect priest such as Jesus? Surely we would, but such wouldn't authorize invading God's silence and making Jesus a priest from the wrong tribe. The unanswerable argument is that since nothing was said concerning one from the tribe of Judah serving as priest, then one from Judah was not authorized to serve as a priest. Then what would it take for one to be authorized? Certainly not silence but rather a statement to that effect.

What would it take for the authorization of the mechanical instrument in New Testament worship? Wouldn't it take a supporting statement like we have in Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 for singing? You certainly don't have any authorization based on silence. If so, there is absolutely no limit to the additions one can make. No, silence doesn't give sanction and God doesn't need to be treated as an idol that cannot speak. He has told us how to worship and in doing this we have His sanction based on His word.

Heartland Herald

Practicing 1st Century Christianity In the 21st Century

February 20, 2010

Volume 4 No. 32

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Heartland church of Christ

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Evangelist
Michael Demory

Ministers
All members of the church

Schedule of Services

Sunday—9:30am
Wednesday—7:00pm

Evangelistic Efforts

Dubuque Advertiser & TV Program
“The Bible Says”
Public Access
Cable Channel 16
Mon. & Thurs. @ 8:30pm
Tues. @ 2:30pm
Fri. @ 9:00am

Steps to Salvation

1. Hear the Word (Rom. 10:17)
2. Believe (Heb. 11:1,6)
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3)
4. Confess (Matt. 10:32-33)
5. Baptism (1 Pet. 3:21)
6. Remain Faithful (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pet. 3:14)

Making God the Center of Our Lives

By Ed Stover

WHAT would you consider to be the most important thing in your life, the center of your being, and the core of your existence? Is it God? God wants to be the center of your life. Does this make God conceited or self-centered? Some may look at it that way, but God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows what is best for us. He knows that having Him at the center of our lives is what is absolutely best for us. Jesus said, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

Jesus taught that God wants to care for us, protect us, and help us; but to do that we must fully submit to His will and “seek” Him first in our lives. Solomon's great experiment in the book of Ecclesiastes proved the same conclusion. He ended that great book by saying, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole purpose of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). God created man for the purpose of making Him the center of their lives, and when man fails to do so, we cheat ourselves of the great blessings He provides for those He loves.

The Israelites in the wilderness are a great example to look back to regarding this issue. God brought them through the Reed Sea and then told them, “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will

put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26). When they arrived at Sinai, God told them; “If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people” (Exodus 19:5).

After some major setbacks, the Israelites began to get it. You can imagine families working happily and diligently together as they prepare the Tabernacle and the furnishings for it. Everyone was centered on serving God. Then when the Tabernacle was finished, the instructions for the Israelite camp were given, and the location of the Tabernacle as we find in Numbers chapter two. God was at the center of their very lives! If we could stand on a mountain overlooking the Israelite camp, what would we see? We would see all the Israelite tribes encamped around the Tabernacle of God which would be located in the very center of their camp. It was symbolic.

Just like God was dwelling in the center of His people in the Tabernacle, so too God dwelt at the very center of every individual Israelite's being. We must remember that the way the Israelites were to live, obey, and dedicate themselves to God in the wilderness was a type or foreshadowing of how we should all live out our Christian lives. Paul spoke of their experiences and said, “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). God loves us! He wants us to love Him, trust Him, and completely dedicate our lives to Him.

However, living life for God only when it is convenient for us will not do. God will not settle for being second best, nor should a holy and loving God have to. The cross of Christ is the way God manifested His awesome love and dedication for us (1 John 4:9-10). Obeying God and making Him the central focus of our lives, our families, and our congregation is how we manifest our love and appreciation for Him. Let's all ask ourselves—is God at the very center of my life and my being?



Is God Easy?

by Johnny Ramsey

HERE are those who seem to think that dealing with God is easy because He is a pushover who extends "cheap grace" to all mankind while demanding nothing in return. However, Romans 1:18-32 disproves this fallacy immediately. We dare not make God in our own image because Psalm 50:21 clearly enunciates the premise that our Creator is definitely on a higher plane than puny men. When there is no reverence for the Almighty in our hearts, certain ruin awaits us (Romans 3:18). What a tragedy it is when the creation mocks its Maker (Gen. 1:26) and foolishly proclaims: "There is no God!" Some in Ezekiel's day suggested that Jehovah could not see them while they engaged in spiritual infamy, but God knocked a hole in the wall of the city so that prophet could see precisely the misconduct of a flippant society. Proverbs 15:3 cogently reminds us: "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Those today who suggest that morality is so relative that it does not really matter how we conduct ourselves forget that heaven has decreed that we live "soberly, righteously and godly in this present world" (Titus 2:12). A famous spiritual song alerts us:

*We praise Thee for the radiance,
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.*

Situation ethics may corrupt a generation of rebels, but such will never be the standard for those who keep the Lord's eternal truths as "the apple of their eye" (Prov. 7:2). God is not easy, but the way of the transgressors is hard (Prov. 13:15). Some who would pervert the will of the Father in regard to marriage and divorce leave the impression that the Lord is so merciful that just about anything goes in the marital realm. But that violates clear Bible teaching. He, who gave marriage as the first divine institution, way back in the second chapter of the Bible, carefully guards the mandates of that relationship. In fact, Malachi 2:16 bluntly affirms that God hates divorce. Therefore, anyone treating the subject lightly will come to realize that Jehovah is not easy but rather exacting in regard to what heaven has joined together (Ps. 127:1).

Our Creator is not easy in regard to the challenge placed before every Christian. We are commanded to do the following:

- ◆ Grow Spiritually (2 Pet. 3:18)
- ◆ Contend for Truth (Jude 3)
- ◆ Be an Example (Phil. 2:15)
- ◆ Expose Error (Eph. 5:11)
- ◆ Be like Christ (Gal. 4:19)
- ◆ Share the Gospel (Mk. 16:15)
- ◆ Love our Enemies (Rom. 12:17-21)
- ◆ Pray Fervently (Jas. 5:16)
- ◆ Study Ardently (2 Tim. 2:15)
- ◆ Live Joyously (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

The most challenging life, by far, is that of a genuine Christian. Yet, the happiest person on earth ought to be the most genuine soldier of Christ. Someone has well stated these words: "The sad countenance is by no means the badge of pity." Verily, happy are those people whose God is Jehovah (Ps. 144:15). Those who say Christians can have no fun are warped on the subject of what constitutes good times.

When Jesus made sacrifice and surrender a badge of discipleship He did all of us a favor (Lk. 9:23) because anything worthwhile demands the best we are capable of performing. Pity not the Christian, but shed tears for the libertine who pursues easy street for the sake of convenience and winds up in eternity with all the undisciplined folk who never accomplished anything! Brethren who avoid pulpits that challenge them, while they seek the congregations who entertain will have an eternity to review their sad mistake. Those who think God as a bellhop who can be summoned upon our whims to shower our mundane existence with trinkets from "Big-Rock Candy Mountain" will have a rude awakening on Judgment Day.

Those who only call out to God when they have a temporary need, or when loved ones die, or when a storm scares them, will find that their lives are empty and their futures bleak indeed.

Yes, God is love (1 Jn. 4:8) but that is not all of His dimensions or facets. It takes effort to go to heaven (Matt. 7:13-14) but it is easy to go to hell!



Search the Scriptures

By Tommy Stacks

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

A study of the Bible reveals very plainly that salvation CANNOT be earned. One receives eternal salvation as a gift from God when the gospel is obeyed (Ephesians 2:8-10). But, if one passes

through the door of death with sin upon his soul, he will have earned death! Sin is a destructive power!

1. Sin had the power to destroy angels (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6)
2. Sin has the power to destroy cities (2 Peter 2:6; Genesis 19:24; Jude 4-6).
3. Sin has the power to destroy nations (Jude 5; 1 Corinthians 10:5-10; Hebrews 3:16-19).
4. Sin has the power to destroy the people of the world (2 Peter 2:5; 3:6)
5. Sin has the power to destroy the church (Revelation 2:5, 14-16, 20-23; 3:5, 15-19)
6. Sin has the power to destroy individuals (1 Samuel 15:23).

God will reject the one who rejects His word (Deuteronomy 11:26; 2 Chronicles 15:1-2). Sin will destroy and separate us from God eternally in hell. Sin is powerful and destructive, but our loving God gave His Son on the cross to give us opportunity to have our sins washed away through baptism (Acts 22:16). Those who obey not the gospel will have earned death (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

The free gift of salvation can be yours simply by obeying God's will that we believe (Hebrews 11:6); repent (Luke 13:3); confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37), and be immersed in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). On the other hand if you fail or refuse to take advantage of God's free gift, you will have earned for yourself the wages of sin—"death."



Does Silence Give Sanction?

By Winfred Clark

It is a matter of verbal conjecture on the part of many that God's silence on a subject of human preference makes such allowable. Such is advocated by those who presume to use mechanical instruments in New Testament worship. It is assumed that since there is no declared prohibition against it such is then allowed. It seems the battles of the past fought in this same arena must again occur. The same questions need to be asked again. The same simple lessons must be learned again.

WASN'T GOD SILENT ABOUT ALL OTHER WOOD EXCEPT GOPHER IN BUILDING THE ARK?

Such seems to be a foolish question to those who read Genesis 6:14. In fact, as you read this verse, and others related to the ark, you would affirm the silence of God on all other kinds of wood to be used in the ark. This would be a good place to show His silence. Would you at the same time argue that His silence would give sanction to the use of any other kind of wood? Would you even care to assume that His silence gave sanction to the use of any other kind of wood? If you did, on what basis would you oppose it?

Remember in Prayer

Special Prayers

- Susan Noel
- Russell Bender
- Freeman Dudley—liver cancer
- Kaiser family
- Jones family
- Walker family
- Julie Bender—Cellulitis
- Brother Odom (Abilene)—COPD
- Laurie Davis—Multiple Sclerosis
- Cody Ledesma—Drug Rehab
- Eric Boor—blood disease
- Lyra Grochmal (7 yrs)—spine cancer
- Melissa McClish—Depression
- Lilly Rucker and family—
- Rockfalls church of Christ
- Platteville church of Christ
- TV Program & Advertiser Ads
- State of our Nation
- The closing of Planned Parenthood
- The church
- The erring & the Lost

Evangelizing the World

- Garret Derouin—Webster, Wisc.
- Scott Nedland—Rice Lake, Wisc.
- Brian Sherrell—LaCrosse, Wisc.
- Bernie Guzman—Philippines
- Fred Rhodes—Newton, Iowa
- Johnny Robertson—Martinsville, Vir
- James Oldfield—Riedsville, NC
- Derrick Brown —Jamaica
- Gary Workman—Ukraine
- Kolakaluri Prasad—Nalgonda, Dist., India
- G. Prabhu Kumar—Chennai, India
- John O'Neal—India & Ghana
- Tom Wacaster—India & Russia
- Holger Neubauer—South Haven, Michigan

Military

- Chip O'Neal—Afghanistan
- Jonathan Duckstein—Afghanistan
- Michael Chlamon—Ft. Drum, NY
- Daniel Heflin—Afghanistan
- Jason Cunningham—Stateside
- Jon McCain—Tech Training
- Military families who are coping while loved ones in harms way