

MARKET STREET

"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)



MESSENGER

Market Street church of Christ
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The Authority of God's Silence

Dan Richardson

I vividly remember when, at the age of eleven, I learned a valuable lesson on authority. My father gave me some money and instructed me to purchase a loaf of bread at the local grocery store. He specified bread, and mentioned nothing else. When purchasing the bread, I decided to take the left over change and buy some candy. My lesson on authority began when dad asked for his change, and at that point I became aware of the prohibitive nature of dad's silence, and that I cannot presume to add other things to his specific command.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz (256) 232-3312
Joel Hamm..... (256) 278-1977
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
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Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

is published in the interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Market Street church.

David A. Cox, Editor

Specified Truth vs. Man's Assumption

The lesson I learned above is a valid principle in respecting authority. It is a principle all recognize and apply in life. However, with many, it becomes lost when dealing with what God commands. Scripture is clear regarding what our attitude and response toward God's instruction should be: "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11, NKJV). God warns not to add to, take from, or in any way alter His word (Revelation 22:18; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 John 9). We must "learn not to go beyond the things which are written" (1 Corinthians 4:6). So, when God gives a specific command, man can't presume add other things He is silent about. It disrespects and disobeys His authority. To reply "God didn't say not to..." won't wash with Him, anymore that it would have with my dad.

The Argument from Scripture

The prohibitive nature of God's silence is clearly seen from an argument made in the book of Hebrews concerning Jesus' priesthood: "Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, seeing there are those who offer the gifts according to the law" (Hebrews 8:4) Why couldn't Jesus be a priest on earth? The answer is found in Hebrews 7:14 – "For it is evident that our Lord hath sprung out of Judah, as to which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priests." God's law through Moses specified Levi to be the priestly tribe. By stipulating the tribe of Levi, it was not necessary He then list of the remaining tribes to declare these can't be priests. The fact that God "spake nothing" concerning priests from the tribe of Judah

was His authority prohibiting it.

Old Testament Examples

When Noah built the ark, God had specified he make it with “gopher wood” (Genesis 6:14). Noah responded “by faith” (Hebrews 11:7), obeying all God commanded him (Genesis 6:22), so we shouldn’t wonder if the ark had any oak or cherry wood in its composition. With God’s specific instruction, His silence “he spake nothing” about other kinds of timber was prohibitive or forbidden. Noah didn’t presume to amend God’s demands, but instead he obeyed them. When we understand the importance of this, we’re not puzzled over God’s pleasure with Noah.

Also, our grasp of these things should neither cause confusion about God’s displeasure toward His priests, Nadab and Abihu, when they used “strange fire before Jehovah” in offering incense (Leviticus 10:1-2). God specified were the fire must come from (Leviticus 16:12); His silence toward all other options was to be respected. Nadab and Abihu’s failure in this regard constituted doing that “which he had not commanded then” (Leviticus 10:2).

It’s No Different Today

Man’s faithful service to God now is no different. We are under the authority of Christ (Colossians 3:17). In view of our responsibility to submit to His authority in the New Testament, we want to briefly consider two present-day practices in religion: 1) Instrumental music in worship, and 2) Church-sponsored recreation and entertainment.

Instrumental music in worship is a widespread practice in many religious groups today. Yet, an examination of the New Testament reveals that in the nine scriptures which address music in worship, God stipulated we are to “sing”. While the advocates of instrumental music in worship may not think it is a ‘big deal’, and wonder what all the fuss is about, we who oppose this practice consider it an issue of profound importance because it addresses man’s attitude and response to divine authority. The truth is, God “spake nothing” in the New Testament about instrumental music in worship, and His silence here carries the same force as when He “spake nothing” about Judah being a priestly tribe. Consequently, man shouldn’t assume to add it. God said “sing” and His silence regarding anything else is prohibitive. The oft heard response, “But there was instrumental music in the Old Testament,” dodges the issue because we are not under

the Law of Moses now (Colossians 2:14). We’re under the law of Christ (Romans 8:2; 1 Corinthians 9:21).

The second concern is the emphasis in religion today on activities which are, by nature, recreational and entertaining. These things are incorporated into their “religious” work and worship. In these religious groups are found church-funded kitchens, dining facilities (called “fellowship halls”), and church built gymnasiums. In their desire to appeal to the masses, they use these facilities to promote games, meals, concerts, etc. Their focus is on making religion “fun” (one area denomination unashamedly promotes itself as “the fun church”). They may call these things religious work, but, as the saying goes, “If it walks like a duck, and sounds like a duck, it’s a duck!” The emphasis on the spiritual, relating to saving souls from sin, has been sacrificed on the altar of fun.

Jesus didn’t come to promote an agenda of fun and entertainment, but to seek and to save those who are lost in sin (Luke 19:10). He accomplished this by offering Himself for our sin on the cross (Ephesians 1:7). By His blood He purchased the church (Acts 20:28), and by His authority as our risen Savior He commissioned the church to the spiritual work of taking His saving gospel to a world lost in sin (Matthew 28:18-19; 1 Thessalonians 1:8). God’s people are raised to “heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3) – a spiritual realm, in His kingdom. Their work and worship together constitute having “fellowship” (sharing in, joint-participation), with God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, and fellow-Christians. God’s people work toward the furtherance of the gospel – the word of the Lord (1 Thess. 1:8), the “word of His grace” (Acts 20:32), the “word of the cross” (1 Corinthians 1:18), God’s power to save (Romans 1:16). They worship “in spirit and in truth” to give adoration, glory, and praise to their Creator and heavenly Father. “Fellowship” should not be reduced to mere attempts to entertain through carnal appeals to the flesh. God specified in the New Testament the spiritual work and worship of His church, and He “spake nothing” concerning the use of enticements in an appeal toward recreation and entertainment. Christians should not conform to the allurements of the world, but rise above it through a spiritual transformation (Romans 12:1-2).

An Expedient?

Regarding both practices mentioned above, there is a common response made in the attempt to defend

them. We are told that they are “expedients” to do the Lord’s work. An “expedient” is an aid or help used to accomplish a desired end. It is said that instrumental music in worship “sounds better” or that it helps the singers to keep the proper tune. Also “fellowship halls” and gymnasiums are said to be “expedients” to do the work of the church. However, the apostle Paul teaches that “expedients” are applicable only with regards to that which is first proved “lawful” by God’s word (1 Corinthians 6:12). Concerning “expedients” the question to be considered is whether or not the thing seeking to be expedited is what God wants in the first place. Only God’s word determines that, and when we respect what His word teaches we are able to see the difference between true expedients in accomplishing His will and additions to His will. God has specified to “sing” rather than play an instrument, and God specified the spiritual work of His church through the gospel instead of through carnal appeals. It should, therefore, be evident that the practices under question are not expedients but additions, and on that basis must be rejected.

-via *Search*; Vanduser, Missouri



How Is Your Vision?

Brent Paschall

“The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light” (Luke 11:34-36).

What is the function of our eyes? It is surely to enable us to see the world around us. I have bad vision, and so I need to wear lenses with a large prescription to see the world around me accurately. But in this passage, Jesus tells us that our eye has the function of illuminating the body. He does not refer to the physical eye, but to our perspective, our way of looking at things.

If our eye is good the light that is in the world

comes into our lives and affects us for good. We need must be illuminated from without because the light is not in ourselves. Jesus told his disciples, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life” (John 8:12). But just like we can wear sunglasses that dim the light, our way of looking at the world can shut out the light of Christ. Jesus tells us it can get so bad that the light in us is darkness. What a dark existence that must be! And yet, some people actually prefer it that way.

“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (John 3:19-20).

Are you in need of vision correction? Thankfully the Great Physician is also a Master Ophthalmologist. After all, who made man’s eye? (Exodus 4:11)

-via *Blue Ridge Brandmarks*; Roanoke, Virginia

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Mary Glenna Currier	Helen Blankenship
Fay Ferguson	Joe Hinkle
Lona Killen	Buddy Pepper
Gilbert Hardy	Crutcher Harbin
Gwen Bullock	Robert & Mot Beasley
Ruth Lawson	Dianna Felker Ritter
Gene Carpenter	Dorothy Casteel
Ava Brooke Campbell	Alex Reed
Elizabeth Howard	David Holt
Joey Hinkle	Charles Burns
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Eli Williams	Elizabeth Kate Miller

In The Hospital:

Reba Admas; Athen-Limestone Hosp.; rm. 314
Carl Hargrave; HealthSouth-Huntsville; rm. 219
Matt Poff; Vanderbilt Hospital; Nashville, Tenn.
Michael Vaughn; Kindred Hosp. - Rehab; Webster, Texas
Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:
 Nelva Reed, rm. 75 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102

Dorothy Draper, rm. 97 Mattye Murray, rm. 2
 Mable Crafts, rm. 100 Gayle Mills, rm. 15
 Robert Johnson, rm. 18 Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
 Judith Groce, rm. 63

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

Shut-In:

Wynell Casteel, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

CONFESSION/PRAYER: We rejoice that **Carolyn Dean** came forward asking for prayer for forgiveness and strength. We appreciate Carolyn for her good heart and her desire to please God. May we all encourage them as they will encourage us in our work together is serving the Lord.

NURSING HOMESINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the **Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care**. Come to sing, you will enjoy it and you will encourage the residents there.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Kim Rogers** and *all the family* in the passing of Kim's father, **Will Earl Sullivan**. He passed away Friday morning. The visitation was Saturday night in Fayette. The funeral will be this evening in Kennedy.

WORK GROUPS: **Work Group Three** will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of July 20th

Sunday: Bible Classes..... 132
 Morning Worship 186
 Evening Worship..... 132

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 109

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, July 27th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Hunter Cox
 Prayer Tommy Coblenz
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Bonnie Sutton
 Assisting Marcus Morris
 Serving Heath Dollar Paul Hasting
 Marvin Putman Mot Dollar
 Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements Joel Hamm
 Song Leader Todd Williams
 Prayer Terry Andrews
 Preaching Song Service
 Lord's Supper Bonnie Sutton
 Closing Prayer Keenon Currier

Other Assignments for Sunday, July 27th:

Usher Danny Johnson
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, July 30th:

Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Bible Reading Mark 16:12-20
 Russ Wulfekuhl
 Prayer Dwaine Allfrey
 Invitation Todd Williams
 Closing Prayer Terry Andrews

Sunday, August 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Stefan Fudge
 Prayer Joel Hamm
 Preaching David Cox
 Lord's Supper
 Presiding Jerry McGlocklin
 Assisting Terry Andrews
 Serving Jason Conn. Cody Kennedy
 Delmer Carter James Johnson
 Closing Prayer Landon Adams

Evening Worship

Announcements Keith Hinkle
 Song Leader Tommy Burns
 Prayer Marcus Morris
 Preaching Jordan Lovell
 Lord's Supper Jerry McGlocklin
 Closing Prayer Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 3rd:

Usher Russ Wulfekuhl
 Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams