

**New Caney
Church of Christ**

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Assembly Times

Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

***Retaining The Standard
Of Sound Doctrine***

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Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Chief priests and scribes (Lk 20:20)
2. 12 - one from each tribe (Numb. 13)
3. Dan (Judges 18)
4. Hushai (2 Sam. 15:32-37)
5. Joshua (2:1)
6. Galatians (2:4)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Ronnie Lightfoot
Announcements:
Encouragement Talk: Todd McAdams
Opening Prayer: Tyler Blazek
Scripture Reading:
Philippians 4:21-23
Song Leader: Billy Lovell
Table Talk: Ryan Haarmann
Contribution: Brad Smith
Helper: Theo Edge
Fruit of Vine: Eddie Bowen
Helper: Jonathan Lovell
Helper: Jacob McAdams
Closing Prayer: John Van Baale

Sunday Afternoons

May 28 NOON Prep Classrooms for Carpet Cleaning
4PM Singing with Donald Hejl
June 4 4PM Devotionals (Men, Women, Youth)
June 11 4PM Parenting Class; Children's Drill Class
June 18 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: John Franks
Speaker: Tyler Blazek



Standing Firm

“Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist
in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”
Ephesians 6:13

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The Silence Of Scripture

Bible authority is established through direct statements, commands, approved examples, and necessary inferences. We understand what to do with the stated commands and prohibitions of Scripture, but what are we to do with the things God does not say? We know what to do with God's voice, but what are we to do with God's silence?

There are two ways to answer this question. Some allege that whatever is not expressly forbidden is allowed in their religious practice. When asked what authority they have for a practice, they respond, “Where does the Bible say not to?” To such individuals, God's silence gives consent. Others contend that anything not authorized in Scripture is not permitted. The difference is whether the silence of Scripture is permissive or prohibitive. Should God's silence be viewed as a green light to proceed or a red light to stop?

God has revealed His mind and will to us in the words of Scripture (1 Cor. 2:9-13). When God's word is silent on a subject, we don't have God's mind or will on the matter. We can only presume to have God's permission or authority when we proceed into areas where God is silent. It is a dangerous thing to make presumptions about God's mind and will. God's thoughts are higher and greater than our thoughts (Is. 55:8-9). Jeremiah observed, “O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer. 10:23). If we are not capable of directing our own steps, what makes us think we can presume to know God's will?

Nadab and Abihu operated on God's silence. “Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord” (Lev. 10:1-2). They offered incense using fire that God “had not commanded them.” These men presumed they had God's consent to use any fire they wanted. Fire for the incense offerings was to come from the altar (Lev. 16:12). God was silent regarding fire from any other source.

The writer of the book of Hebrews understood God's silence to be prohibitive. He used God's silence as evidence that the Law of Moses had been taken away. Jesus is our High

Priest, but He came from the tribe of Judah. The Law of Moses called for priests to come only from the tribe of Levi. *“For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood”* (Heb. 7:12-14, emphasis mine - HR). God’s silence does not give us consent.

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Col. 3:17). To do all things in the name of the Lord is to recognize Jesus as Lord and live in complete submission to His will. If we abide in His word, we are His disciples indeed (John 8:31). When we step outside of His word we are in His silence – forbidden territory. We are taking steps that destroy our fellowship with God. *“Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son”* (2 John 9, NASU).

“Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other” (1 Cor. 4:6, emphasis mine – HR). The things that are written (the Scriptures) constitute a boundary or barrier for us. We must not think or go beyond this barrier. Within this barrier is God’s word. Beyond this barrier is God’s silence.

Conclusion: Failing to respect the restrictive nature of God’s silence will have serious consequences. Once this restriction is abandoned, the floodgates are opened. If anything not expressly forbidden in Scripture is allowed in our religious practices, then we can have instrumental music in our worship. But why stop there? We can have a band and light show to enhance our worship experience. We can have beads to aid our praying, statues upon which to focus our devotion, missionary societies to further our evangelism, fun and games to keep our young people interested in church, family life centers to address the health and social needs of the community, fundraisers to build up our treasury, etc. We are standing on dangerous ground when we presume to speak for God. Let’s be content with the word of God and respect the restrictive nature of His silence.

By Heath Rogers

Know Your Bible

Spies

1. Who sent spies to watch Jesus?
2. How many spies did Moses send into Canaan?
3. What tribe sent out five spies to check out its land?
4. What counselor of Absalom was actually a spy for David?
5. Who sent two spies to Jericho?
6. What epistle warns against people sent in to “spy out our liberty”?

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



I’ve Been Thinking About Those “Memory Verses”

Have you ever wondered why we stop doing certain things? I mean, as a people – in society, in families, in local churches. Do you sometimes remember things we used to do that we no longer do anymore? And why did we stop?

I grew up in the 50’s and early 60’s. In my family and in the Bible classes I attended in my youth, a vital part of our learning was Memorizing Scripture. In Bible classes in those days, we used lesson booklets called “Quarterlies.” There would be a subject or passage developed, followed by question and answer exercises. But at the top of every lesson, a memory verse. The Bible class teacher would often call upon students randomly to recite their memory verse; recitation was a valued educational tool in those days.

In the public schools you memorized and recited your multiplication table and the alphabet. When I got into music we committed to memory the lines and spaces on the music staff. Even in my college days in history courses, dates and events would be memorized (even if you did this the night before the exam).

Memory work was a prominent feature of children’s Bible classes. Preachers in those days would memorize whole sections of Scripture, and I remember as a child being mesmerized when preachers would quote the entire second chapter of Acts. In Vacation Bible School in the 50’s everybody learned the 23rd Psalm.

Why did we stop? There was a time in my life when I was tempted to think – Well, we stopped doing those things because we have learned better methods; we are smarter now. But today I don’t think that’s the right answer. I’m afraid so many things we used to do in local churches we simply don’t take time to do anymore and to our fault. Ladies Bible Classes. Vacation Bible Schools. Gospel Meetings. And Memory Verses. Perhaps there can be value in re-visiting things we used to do.

Memorizing Scripture is a valuable legacy of my childhood. Oh, I didn’t always enjoy it then; sometimes, I had to say my memory verse before I could go out to play. Tree houses awaited my constructive skill. There were crawdads to be caught; bikes to ride and balls to throw. But I would have to say my memory verse before any of that. I know the value of it now and appreciate my mother’s diligence.

The case for memorizing Scripture can be initiated in Psalms 119:11. “Your Word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against you.” I do not argue this is specifically and only about memorizing Scripture. But I think it obvious, memorizing scripture will facilitate and expedite the application of this!

If I need to have the Word of God in my heart to defend myself against sin – one thing I can do is memory work. It is not the only thing, but let us not exclude this time-honored method. I must read the Word. I must seek to study and understand it within the context. I must make an application of the Word in my daily life – All of this is essential. But one step in this total work can be, memorizing Scripture. “Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” If this is my pledge to God. If I want to take every step I can, away from sin – One thing I can do is, memorize portions of the Word.

Don’t do this to impress others by your recitations (see Matt. 6:1-18). Don’t do this as a substitute for reading and study.

Do it to help put the Word in your heart. Do it for ready use when talking to others (1 Pet. 3:15). Do it to defend yourself against temptation (Matt. 4:1-11). Do it for recall and reference. Involve your children; join with friends in a team effort. It will be a task never to be regretted.

By Warren E. Berkley