

Lessons From Hebrews

The Silence Of The Scriptures

(He 7:14)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greetings...
2. Series of "Lessons From Hebrews."
 - a. We already examined the "major themes" of the book.
 - b. Now we are looking at some of the great topical lessons that can be gleaned from the magnificent book.
 - i. Thus we find ourselves looking at a verse that for far too long members of the Lord's church have simply overlooked. Yet it is a vital proof text verse on our topic today, The Silence Of The Scriptures.
3. There have been and continue today people that hold to the idea "what God's has not said I can do."
 - a. It has been purposed that where God is silent we are at liberty to do.
 - b. Those that hold this idea, as we will see, use this when and only when it is convenient for themselves, but never-the-less it is common.
4. The Hebrew writer does make an argument for the "Silence of Scriptures."
 - a. **He 7:14** "For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests."¹
5. With this in mind let us look at our text today.

I. The Bible Doesn't Say I Can't Arguments

- A. It doesn't say I can't use mechanical instruments with worship songs
 1. **Ac 16:25; Ro 15:9; I Co 14:15; Ep 5:19; Co 3:16; He 2:12; Ja 5:13; Rv 14:3; 15:3**
 - i. Here lies all nine verse concerning music in the N.T.
 - ii. Nowhere does it say "thou shall not use mechanical instruments."
- B. It doesn't say I can't drink any alcohol
 1. 42 times, in the ESV, the Bible uses the word wine without saying it is wrong to drink it.
 - i. 41 would be more accurate as **Ep 5:18** in the Greek clearly states taking a sip would be wrong, however many English translations fall short of making that clear.
- C. It doesn't say women cannot serve the Lord's Supper where men are present
 1. There is no "thou shall not have women serve on the Lord's Supper where men are present."
- D. There are a lot of things the Bible doesn't say I can do but we do them anyway
 1. Meet in a building to worship.
 2. Use lights in the building.
 3. Use technology of any sorts ie powerpoint, tablets/phones (for bibles)...

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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II. The Bible Does Say I Can't Argument Refuted

- A. There is no doubt most who would argue for this don't actually hold to this with God across the board, for example...
 - 1. We are "told" to remember Jesus at the Lord's Supper. (**I Co 11:23-26**)
 - i. We are not told to not remember...
 - a. David, Abraham, Moses, Peter, Paul...
 - ii. Yet no one uses the Lord's Supper to remember anyone but Jesus.
 - 2. We are "told" to use bread and juice for the Lord's Supper. (**Mt 26:26-29**)
 - i. We are not told to not use...
 - a. Steak and potatoes, biscuits and gravy, hamburgers and french-fries...
 - ii. I know of no group that uses anything other than bread and juice for the Lord's Supper.
 - a. Though now-a-days there seems to be a movement away from unleavened bread to leavened bread and grape juice to any juice or alcoholic wine.
- B. Refuting the "it doesn't say I can't" arguments"
 - 1. God has made it clear we are to have authority for everything we do.
 - i. **Co 3:17** "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
 - ii. What does it mean to have authority for everything we do?
 - a. It means God has to say something is "ok" in order for us to do it.
 - b. So we must have an "it's ok" from God to do something.
 - 1. "Thus sayith the Lord."
 - iii. Argument: There are a lot of things the Bible doesn't say we can do but we do them anyway like using lights in the building, owning a building, using modern technology...
 - a. This is simply a lack of understanding how God authorizes people to do things.
 - b. God authorizes us in three different ways.
 - 1. Direct statements
 - 2. Examples
 - 3. Implication
 - i. See my sermons on "Understanding Bible Authority Pt 1-3" (<http://goo.gl/uvyFk>)
 - c. When one understands that they will see clearly we have authority from God for all of that.

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2. God has explicitly told us that if anyone, including Jesus, does what He has been silent on it is sin.
 - i. **He 7:14** "For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests."
 - ii. Consider
 - a. Here the Hebrew writer is establishing that Jesus has to be a priest in heaven because He cannot be one on earth.
 - b. God "said" the Levites were to be priests. He did not say Judah could not be priests.
 - iii. Notice
 - a. The reason Jesus could not be an earthly priest was because God was silent concerning Judah being priests.
 - b. If Jesus had tried to become a priest on earth He would have sinned.
3. Thus if we cannot find where God authorizes...
 - i. The use mechanical instruments with worship songs than it is unauthorized.
 - a. God authorized only one instrument for use with our voice in song, our heart.
 1. **Ep 5:19** "...making melody in your heart..."
 - ii. The use of alcoholic beverages than it is unauthorized.
 - a. God authorized every Christian to be "sober-minded" literally free from all intoxicants.
 1. **I Pt 5:8** "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."
 - iii. Women serving on the Lord's Table than it is unauthorized.
 - a. God authorized women to be in submission to men and not exercise authority over them, thus not leading men.
 1. **I Ti 2:12** "I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet."

CONCLUSION

1. Many people will question us "where does the Bible say I can't do this or that."
 - a. Do not get caught up in that question, rather turn it around and more accurately ask them the question where does the Bible say you can do this or that.
 - i. That is the biblical question.
2. Question: Have you abused God's and His Word by doing that which He has not authorized?
 - a. If not continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If so, why have you and are you willing to stop doing that?

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3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**