

Church of Christ

77 Cogan Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 563-2970

May 20, 2018

WHEN GOD IS SILENT

Those reading this article will likely agree that we should do what God says in his word. When God has given a commandment, those who love God will obey (I John 5:3). But how should we interpret God's silence? In cases in which God has given no instruction, do we have the authority to engage in those practices?

This question is vital because, sometimes, good, sincere people will ask, "Where does the Bible say we are 'not' to do this?" Usually, such statements are made when someone wants to add something to worship for which there is no biblical instruction. Since there are cases in which God has been silent, some believe that God's silence is to be viewed as authority for adding anything to worship or religious practice that is not forbidden.

However, it would be good if we would consider the following examples: When God told Noah to build the ark of "gopher wood," did God then have to specify all the types of wood that Noah was "not" to utilize in building the ark—oak, hickory, pine, etc.? No, when God specified "gopher wood," Noah knew that all other wood was not to be used (cf. Genesis 6:22). When God told the Israelites to offer a lamb for the Passover sacrifice, did he then have to specify all the animals that the Israelites were not to use (Exodus 12:5)? When God specified that priests were to come from the tribe of

"Levi," did God then need to specifically exclude all other tribes (Numbers 8:9-15)? No, the people understood that when God said "Levi," this would naturally exclude all other possibilities.

Now, if we can understand this principle that is so clear from the Old Testament, I am certain that we can understand the following modern-day applications: When God says that we are to "sing" in worship, is there any need for God to state, specifically, that singing and playing an instrument is not authorized by the New Testament (Ephesians 5:19)? No, the command to "sing" authorizes singing, not singing and playing an instrument. When God says that we are to pray to him through Jesus, does God have to specifically exclude praying through Mary (John 14:13)? When God says that those who are to be baptized must be individuals who "believe" and "repent," is there any need to specifically condemn infant baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)? No, infants cannot believe or repent and do not need baptism. When God states that baptism is an immersion in water, does he then need to specifically exclude sprinkling and pouring (Colossians 2:12)?

All of these examples establish that God's silence does not authorize us to add whatever we want to worship or religious practice. Rather, God's silence prohibits. Let us resolve that we will "speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent."

Mark Lindley
Ripley, MS
Bulletin Digest

PRAY FOR...

Alley, Donna & family: struggles
Ballard, Nikki: struggles
Ballard, Sophie: Nikki's niece, struggles
Bennett, Jim: health
Bickford, Eddie: health struggles
Cech, Matthew and Terry: health
Collins, Mary: Patty's friend, struggles
Deeton, Mike: Katelyn's friend, heart
Duprey, Karina: Earl's niece, cancer
Elders: Alfred and Doug
Forette, Kevin: John's friend, cancer
Gemma: Don's sister, pancreatic cancer
Gundrum, Eloise: one year-old, cancer
Hagen, Cindy: new walk with Christ
Jackson, Jessah: Amber's friend's daughter, leukemia
Kashorek, Lori: strength during chemo for lung cancer
Laduke, Lilly: Jack Taylor's relative, kidney infection
Lapier, Lisa: Patty's neighbor, lung cancer
Laramy, Paul: Steven's brother, motorcycle accident
Lebeau, Steve & Gail: John's friends, health struggles
Lernineau, Sean: Carl's relative, struggles
LePage, Jim Sr. and Gail: Jim L's parents, health
Miller, Jody: struggles
Missions: Brazil, Ghana, Malawi, Ukraine, Zambia
Page, Gary: Garth's friend, sick
Richardson, Elizabeth: Eddie's sister, health
Rice, John: Jim's B.s neighbor, cancer
Riggs, Don Alan: our intern, struggles
Snelson, Kelby: Nikki's niece, thyroid, Stills Disease
Spencer Carrie: Alfred's niece, health
Stapleton, Katelyn: apartment search
Stowe, Kayonna: Nikki's niece's friend, cancer
Stroffregen, Orton: Katelyn's friend's baby, health
Taylor, Robert Jr.: Nikki's dad's preacher friend, dying
The Oasis Project
Traveling: Jim B., Mary Cl, Katelyn and Nikki, Crumps
Whitfield, Freda: Mary Chambers' mother, health

"Continue to help us keep this list updated and to pray for those mentioned in previous bulletins."

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shepherds serving under the Good Shepherd:

Alfred Chambers, 901-205-8584
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 563-0835
c645-1509

available: Fri 9-3 or by appt.

Schedule of Services

Sunday
Bible Class 10 A.M.
Morning Worship 11 A.M.

Wednesday
Bible Classes 6:30 P.M.

Welcome to Worship

The church of Christ that meets in Plattsburgh invites you to attend any of our services. We love having visitors and are honored for you to attend. We seek to follow the New Testament in all that we do in our worship services. Our primary aim in worship is to glorify and honor God by worshipping Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24) Trusting in the promise of the gospel message, we now live out obedience to God's Word as our only authority and pattern for our lives and the church. We want to encourage you to come and learn, worship, grow, and serve the Lord with us! "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

From the Shepherds ...

At the end of the month, we will have a busy week as our intern will be here on fellowship meal Sunday after Camp Hunt Family Weekend, 5/25-27, to help with the "Armor of God" mini-VBS on Monday-Wednesday, 5/28-30, and the registration for the Camp Hunt summer session is due. Next week's family meeting is very important to plan details. How can you get involved?



We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: John's class--Search For Truth, lesson 10
Youth classes as well ... and don't forget to meet at Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: our next 4th Sunday meal is right after morning service on 5/27. Our intern will be here.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: our next 1st Sunday MPB is on 6/3. Hope all men are able to attend and enjoy.

'Armor of God' Mini-VBS

The wood is sanded and ready to be turned into Shields of Faith. Come Mon.-Wed., 5/28-30, from 6:30-7:30 to paint the one reserved for you and to hear

Camp Hunt Corner

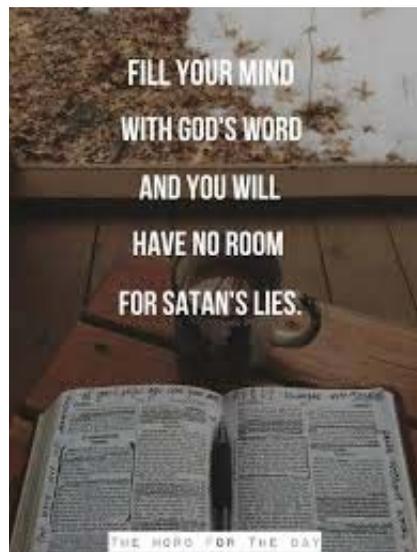
Info has gone out. Registration is due via the website by 5/31. The church will pay for one week for every kid of appropriate age in regular attendance.

Doug's Devotional

"Above all, you must understand that no prophecy came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit"

2 Peter 20-21.

Authority resides in the Creator. Everything is made by Him and for Him. At the cross, the perfect sacrifice for sin, Jesus, gained all of that authority from the Father and after His resurrection told His followers to "go and make disciples" with it. Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit to write the 27 books of the New Testament—yet there are still those who come to Scripture for proof of their own authority or believe that they can make the verses mean whatever they would like them to. If a parent gave the command to "clean your room," the child would get in trouble interpreting that how she would like to understand it. So do we when we make the Bible mean what it never meant. To discover God's mean-ing we look for clear commands, examples, and inferences. But then, is silence permissive or prohibitive? So many troubling doors open when we say, "God didn't say I couldn't" How do you use Jesus' authority?



Sundae Toppings

Today: 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting and Ladies's Day
5/27, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal
6/3, 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
6/10, 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Time



The Oasis Project

The Oasis Project will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30-5:30 p.m. For confidentiality reasons, if you are not vetted, please stay away from the church building during those hours. Thank you.

Mission Moment

•Please pray for all our mission works.

2018 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 141-Psalms 23-27
Day 142-Psalms 28-32
Day 143-Psalms 33-37
Day 144-Psalms 38-42
Day 145-Psalms 43-47

Any qualms about Psalms?



Mark Your Calendar

5/26, Howard's birthday in Christ ('85)
5/28, Taylor & Tyler's birthdays
5/28-30, Armor of God mini-VBS
5/29, Jim L's birthday
6/3, Katelyn's birthday
6/6, Chambers' anniversary ('75)
6/13, Glenda & Steven's birthdays; Amber's birthday in Christ ('89)
6/19, Kashorek ('93) and Goodman ('04) anniversaries

Today:5/20

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Jim B
Song Leader: Garth
#303, "O Worship the King"
#202, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"
#288, "Fairest Lord Jesus"
Talk/bread prayer: Carl
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Chris
Pass/collection prayer: John
#166, "He's My King"
Scripture Reading: Alfred - 2 Peter 1:19-21
Lesson: Doug "But Men Spoke from God"
#979, "I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger"
Closing Song: Steven
#543, "Wonderful Words of Life"
Closing Prayer: Tyler
Subs: HG, JL, AV

Next Sunday: 5/27

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: John
Song Leader: Alfred
Talk/bread prayer: Tyler
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Steven
Pass/collection prayer: Howard
Scripture Reading: Carl - Luke 11:1-4
Lesson: Don Alan "Lord, Teach Us to Pray"
Closing Song: Garth
Closing Prayer: Jim B

Wash & Wear

- the cleaning and mowing sign-up for this season is on the fridge a turn is appreciated & needed. Instructions on the use of the riding mower is available.
- the church's blue polo shirts in a variety of sizes are \$15 each (to cover cost only).

Week of May 13

Bible Class	25
Morning Worship	33
Wed. Bible Class	15
Contribution	\$613.00
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$575.00