

THE BULLETIN—VOL 47, NUMBER 25 July 18, 2021

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher—*No Man Careth for my Soul*

PM: no assembly

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

**We can be washed clean of sin in a moment
– Perfection takes a bit longer**

**“Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth,
that shall he also reap.” - Galatians 6:7**

“God will render to every man according to his deeds” - Romans 2:6

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

**JOIN US IN
PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY,
COME SEE!**

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study

Sunday 11 AM Assembly

Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study

Office Phone (803) 794-5320

Nursery provided

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Any Time On Request

Everyone Welcome!

Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

Other than the members

none at present time

Full time position open

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WEST COLUMBIA
CHURCH OF CHRIST

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

THE SILENCE OF THE BIBLE

There has been a great deal of discussion on "The Silence of the Bible." Some have emphasized the respect we should have for the authority of God by respecting the silence of the Bible. Others have taught that where the Bible is silent, we have a right to speak. The issue is, "Does God give to man the right to teach and practice in the name of Christ anything about which there is no divine revelation?" Has God given sufficient guidance in all affairs that pertain to the work and worship of the Lord? Has He left some things to the wisdom and judgment of man? How shall we know what has been left to the judgment of man in the work and worship of the Lord?

If, by His silence in revelation, God has granted to man the right to teach and practice some things, then there opens a field of strife and division. Man cannot agree with his fellows as to what must be brought in, and no greater source of division can be found than the different standards of men.

The Bible clearly teaches that man should not add to the word of God. "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God which I command you." (Deut. 4:2). Here we learn that Jehovah would not let the children of Israel add to nor take from anything He had commanded them. Jehovah had given the law, and it was sufficient to guide them in all of their work and worship. They were to let the law stand, without additions, subtractions, or alterations. This enforced upon them to respect God's silence on any subject. If they could not add to or take from the law, they were not to impose human judgments upon the people. To do so would be to add to or take from the law. They had to respect the silence of Jehovah on the work and worship they were to perform.

The New Testament teaches the same principle: **"I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book."** (Rev. 22:18-19). This demands that man respect the silence of divine revelation. No one is permitted to add to or take from the teachings of the New Testament. It will not do to say that the above quotation applies only to the book of Revelation. God would not forbid one from adding to or subtracting from only one book in the New Testament, but would also grant man the privilege of adding to and taking from other books.

This principle applies to all the books of the New Testament. Other teachings show this to be true. "Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes; that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written..." (1 Cor. 4:6). These Corinthians were thus forbidden to go beyond the things that were written. They were to respect the silence of God — the silence of the Scriptures — and not make any alterations. God would not forbid the church at Corinth to "go beyond the things which are written," and at the same time grant other churches to add what they pleased or to leave off anything they did not wish to teach or practice. .

- Continued on Page 3

"PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER" - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Barbara and Melvin Reeder, Pat Joyner, Merrie Chrismus, Margaret Herring, Jan Kelleher, Jamie Sheppard*

- **Judy Cornelius** is back safely with her sister **Brenda**. Jones is back from Florida. We're glad they're all back safely. Prayers work.
- **Katie Kennedy** is in much less pain from 2 broken shoulders, but she'll be starting rehab soon. Paula is helping getting her dressed. Keep them both in your prayers.
- **Keep ALL these, and the rest of us, in your prayers! God hears and knows!**

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." - 2 Timothy 1:12

"AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY" - Acts 2:42

- **Meeting each week now!** At the building, Sunday AM and Wednesday PM.
- **Bible Studies!** Please join us Sunday 10am in Psalm 36 and Wed 7pm in Acts.
- **MEN! Contact Jones** and volunteer to help with prayer, Lord's table, singing, etc.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer**

"Remember Lot's wife." - Luke 17:32

"God will render to every man according to his deeds" - Romans 2:6

"WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP" - Romans 12:15

- **Jamie Sheppard** has been diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis., a very serious, often fatal disease. He will start meds in a few weeks. Pray that he can tolerate the side effects and that the Lord be merciful. Remember him and the family, often, in your prayers.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." - Revelation 21:4

COMMON SALVATION—ONCE DELIVERED!

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. ⁴For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." - Jude 3-5

THE SILENCE OF THE BIBLE—*(Continued from Page 1)*

What He says here to the church at Corinth is applied to all of the churches, and is applicable to His people through all ages.

The same truth is expressed by John: "**Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son. If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into your house, and give him no greeting: for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil works.**" (2 Jn. 9-11). This teaches that the silence of "the teachings of Christ" must be respected. John is writing to no particular church, but Christians in general. Hence, the principle of respecting the silence of "the teachings of Christ" is here taught by John.

One is safe when one follows the teachings of God. One impeaches the wisdom of God when one attempts to make any alterations in "what is written" in the New Testament. In doing so, one must take the attitude that either God did not know enough to give man a complete guide for all ages, or that God has left man free to make additions where God has not spoken.

The foundation of the argument that man may speak where the Bible is silent rests, like Dagon's temple, upon two pillars, which, so long as they continue sound, will support all the theories of men. The first pillar is that "the church of Christ, like all other societies, has power to make laws for its government." The second pillar is that, "where the sacred Scriptures are silent, human authority may interpose." But if some Samson can be found to shake these pillars from their bases, the whole edifice, with the lords of the Philistines in their seats and the multitude with which it is crowded, will be involved in one common ruin. If the two principles mentioned above are granted, the arguments cannot be refuted. But if it can be shown that the principles are false, the conclusions, with all the arguments based on them, are false.

First, the church of Christ is not like other societies. It is different from all human institutions, because Christ framed a constitution for it which is different from any of the teachings of man. No one can show that God permits man to speak or act in the name of Christ where the New Testament is silent. There is not a single sentence in all the New Testament that warrants man to speak, where the New Testament is silent, in the name of Christ; there is no Scripture that grants man such authority. How, then, can man know that he has the right to speak where the Bible is silent? No human association, no individual has any right to interpose authority where the New Testament neither enjoins nor forbids. We must respect the authority of God here.

To interpose and draft regulations where the New Testament is silent is to legislate for God's people where God has not legislated. It is a fearful thing to impose anything in the name of Christ upon God's people when God has not spoken on that point. If He has spoken, then we must respect what He has said. If He has not spoken, then we must respect His wisdom in remaining silent.

It seems that anyone would know that the floodgate would be open and all sorts of innovations would be brought into the work and worship of the Lord's people if we do not respect the silence of the Bible. To respect the silence of the Bible is to respect God. To break that silence is to impeach the wisdom, love, and authority of God. It is to commit the high crime of presumptuous sin. **"Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work."** (2 Tim. 3:16- 17).

- Henry Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel Preacher

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