

Constrained By Revealed Truth

Our desire is to be people of the book because the Book reveals the mind of God.

It is the mind of God, not our own mind that it to be for us the authority in all things and guide us.

Jn. 4:23,24 “But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father *in spirit and truth*; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

I. Importance Of Revealed Truth

Jn. 17:17 “Thy word is truth.”

2 Jn. 9 “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.”

Gal. 1:9 “As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed.”

Rev. 22:18,19 “I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.”

Col. 3:16 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

II. The Right Things

A. Prayer

1 Cor. 14:15 “What is the outcome then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also.”

Acts 6:6 “And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.”

1 Tim. 2:1-3 “First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior”

B. Lord's Supper

Acts 20:7 “And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.”

1 Cor. 11:23-28 “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

25 In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”

C. Singing

Col. 3:16 “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

1 Cor. 14:15 “What is the outcome then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also.”

D. Collection

1 Cor. 16:1,2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.”

2 Cor. 9:7 “Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

E. Preaching

Acts 20:7 “And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.”

2 Cor. 4:13 “But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,” we also believe, therefore we also speak”

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.”

III. Why We Can't Add Other Things, No Matter How Good We Think Them To Be

A. Many Have Fallen By Such Reasoning

How could Nadab and Abihu have offered their strange fire better?

How could Saul have spared King Agag and taken the spoils of the Amalekites better?

The root of the problem was them doing what they thought was good.

But who decided that it was good? They did.

Who are they do decide what is good? And who are we?

Col. 2:20-23 “If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,

21 “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”

22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with the using)-- in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.”

Self made religion is of no real value. It is deceptive and destructive.

When I make a religion, I might elevate the clergy, have a yearly instead of a weekly calendar, make sure there are lots of tubas and pipe organs,

B. The “Why Can't We...” Question

Some want broad liberty to do as many things religiously as possible – certainly more than these 5 acts.

If permitted to do those things not mentioned in the Bible, then we can do not only the few things God has mentioned, but there thousands of things He has not mentioned which our religious friends do.

Only Two Possible Answers

– Permissive answer:

You are permitted to do any unmentioned thing as long as it is not specifically forbidden in the Bible. As long as God did not say “Thou shalt NOT.”

– Prohibitory answer: The law of exclusion.

You cannot do unmentioned things. One specific thing forbids the thing(s) not specifically mentioned. The command to sing:

Eph. 5:19 “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord”

This excludes the playing of an instrument in worship to God.

This is the answer that respects the things that God has specified as excluding all other things.

What is God's answer to the meaning of His silence? God knows what He means by His silence. Let's go to the Bible and ask Him whether silence is permissive or prohibitive.

C. What Were Jews To Do In Absence Of Instruction?

Deut. 4:2 “You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

Deut. 12:32 “Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.”

Deut. 29:29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law”

The secret or silent things provide no instruction for action.

So the stated rules always apply – unless specific instructions given to the contrary.

No Priests From Judah

Heb. 7:14 “For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.”

No tribe other than Levi could claim the right to the priesthood because God had said nothing regarding their being priests.

Silence Did Not Allow Anything!

D. Safe Principles To Follow

1.) Speak As The Oracles Of God **1 Pet. 4:11**

1 Pet. 4:11 “Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

The Restoration Movement was noted for it's slogan, “Where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent.”

Silence does not authorize action; only God's spoken revelation does.

2.) No Instruction = No Right To Speak **Acts 15:24**

Some men went out from Jerusalem teaching that Gentile converts must be circumcised **Acts 15:1,5**
Paul and Barnabas sent Jerusalem to settle the controversy.

The apostles and elders at Jerusalem wrote the letter to the Gentile brethren.

Acts 15:24 “Since we have heard that some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls”
“to whom we gave no such commandment” – KJV

Since no instruction had been given, the teachers had no right to speak.

Silence does not authorize; it prohibits!

3.) Do Not Exceed What Is Written **1 Cor. 4:6**

1 Cor. 4:6 “Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.”

We must not exalt ourselves, our teachers, our leaders, any of your own decisions or think-so's or practices, to be exalted above the apostles and what has been written.

When we practice or defend what is not in authorized in the scriptures we do this very thing.

4.) Don't Go Too Far **2 Jn. 9**

2 Jn. 9 “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.”

John warns us that one who does not abide in the teaching (doctrine) of Christ does not have God.

– The Greek word for “too far” is “pro-agon” to go ahead, to progress.

– This warns of the danger of progressive thinking and acting.