

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

298 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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IS BIBLE SILENCE PERMISSIBLE OR PROHIBITIVE?

- 1. Definition** By “silence of the Scriptures” we mean those instances where we have questions or wish for information and there is no *specific* guidance. God’s word is complete in every respect. We can know (2 Tim 3:16-17) that we are “_____ furnished unto _____ good works” and have (2 Pet 1:3) “_____ things that pertain unto _____ and _____.” But the question of permissibility and prohibition is yet to be answered.
- 2. Permissible** This means something is *allowable* and *optional*. Example: Paul warned against (Heb 10:25) “not _____ the _____ of ourselves together,” showing Christ’s will for saints to assemble. Church buildings, as we know them now, were never commanded in the NT yet we all believe it expedient to build, maintain, and use them for “*the assembling of ourselves together.*” Is the Bible silent about church houses? ____ Is it *expedient* to have them to fulfill the command to assemble? ____
- 3. Prohibitive** This means it is *forbidden*. But how could it be forbidden if the Bible is silent about it? Example: We find command and example for the Lord’s Supper. We recommend that you study TPBS Lessons #76-77, 252 for detailed information on the Lord’s Supper. ~Ed~ Unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine are the approved elements. We are told *what to use*. We don’t need a list of *what not to use* to know that anything else is prohibited. (Prov 30:6) “_____ thou _____ unto his _____, lest he _____ thee.” Specific commands forbid unspecified additions.
- 4. Generic vs Specific Authority** Jesus commanded the apostles: (Mk 16:15) “_____ ye into all the _____, and _____ the gospel to every creature.” He was specific about the *going* and the *preaching*. The mode of going is implied but not mentioned. Common sense tells us that nowadays we can walk, ride, or fly. We know, as Jesus knew, that the *creatures* he meant are not monkeys or human infants but accountable humans. A farmer specifically told his son to go milk the cow. He did not approve going fishing although he didn’t tell him not to go fishing.
- 5. Assumptions Can Be Deceptive** T. Pierce Brown explained, “If a person is trying to jump across a 20-foot chasm and only misses by 2 inches, he still may be dead.” (Prov 14:12) “*There is _____ which _____ unto a man, but the _____ thereof are the ways of _____.*” Rule: Specific commands eliminate farther action. Generic commands necessitate scriptural expediency dictated by common sense.
- 6. Expediency** is the quality or state of being suited to the end in view; suitability; being fitting. Paul said (1 Cor 6:12; 10:23), “*but _____ things are _____ expedient.*” He passes to us a warning that we had best heed: “*I will _____ be brought under the _____ of _____*” and “*all things _____ not.*” At first glance something may seem very expedient and right because it coincides with how we are conditioned to think it ought to be. Upon deeper reflection, the honest mind may well realize it’s not really scripturally expedient at all.