

# When the Bible Is Silent

Heb. 7:14

## Introduction:

- A. The Hebrew writer's argument.
  - 1. The law provided for priests of the tribe of Levi (v. 11).
  - 2. The law said nothing about priests of the tribe of Judah (v. 14).
  - 3. The law had to be changed for Jesus to be a priest (v. 12).
- B. The Hebrew writer's argument illustrates a vital principle of divine law.
  - 1. Silence does not permit, but rather prohibits religious activity.
  - 2. If the law says nothing about it, cannot be done without a change in the law.
- C. There are several subjects that we can apply this principle.

## Discussion:

### I. Church Music.

- A. New Testament speaks of singing (1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
- B. New Testament says nothing of playing an instrument in worship.
  - 1. "But it does not say not to" – Nor coke and hamburgers on Lord's table.
  - 2. "But they had it in the Old Testament" – priesthood, sacrifices, cf. Gal. 5:4).
  - 3. "But you have instruments in your homes" – Morally right, religiously wrong (cf. Mk 7:3-7).

### II. Church Finances.

- A. New Testament speaks of Christians "laying by in store" on first day of week. (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7)
- B. New Testament says nothing of:
  - 1. Taking collection on any other day.
  - 2. Business enterprises.
  - 3. Begging from the world.
  - 4. Car Washes.

### III. Church Organization.

- A. New Testament speaks of local churches with local officers. (Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1; Tit. 1:3; 1 Pet. 5:2).
- B. New Testament says nothing of any organization higher or lower.
  - 1. No association, convention, synod, etc. of churches.
  - 2. No combining of churches as an unit for church work.
  - 3. No organization within congregation – Sunday School Organization, Ladies Auxiliary.

### IV. Church Work.

- A. New Testament speaks of Evangelism, Benevolence, and Edification (Phil. 1:5; 4:15, 16; 1 Tim. 5:16; Eph. 4:12, 16).
- B. New Testament says nothing of:
  - 1. Church sponsored recreation.
  - 2. Church sponsored social work.
  - 3. Church sponsored political action.

## Conclusion:

- A. If you want to do something in religion:
  - 1. Either find it in scriptures.
  - 2. Or, be prepared to show that you have the power to change the law.