

# Changing God's Tune?

## God's Silence

by Gil Yoder

Some men scoff at the principle of silence and speak as if no such principle exists. In truth, however, all men observe some principle when it comes to silence. Obviously silence alone would tell us nothing about God's will, but when coupled with the express and implicit teaching of the Bible, recognizing wherein the Bible is silent will go a long way toward our understanding of God's will.

The principle of silence states in effect that authority from God is expressed by what the scriptures say, i.e., where the Bible speaks, and that where the Bible is silent authority from God is absent. This principle is expressed in the motto, "We speak where the Bible speaks, and where the Bible is silent, we are silent." Peter expressed the principle in these words: "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4:11).

What is the Biblical basis for the view we have espoused about the principle of silence? For example, Paul stated in the positive sense that Christians are to "walk by faith" (2 Cor. 5:7), and also in the negative sense that "whatsoever is not by faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). These two verses alone set up a boundary between a walk that is pleasing to God and a walk that is displeasing to God. Only a walk that is according to faith is acceptable to God. In the absence of biblical instruction, scriptural faith is impossible. Paul

said: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17) therefore, faith does not come by silence!

Parents shouldn't have to tell their children don't do this or that for everything the child should not do. Obviously sometimes it is necessary to explicitly forbid certain actions. It is sometimes necessary for parents to say don't to their children, and it was necessary for God sometimes to say don't within His word. But simple common sense should tell us that we should not expect an explicit don't for everything we should not do.

Bible writers employed the principle of silence themselves when interpreting Scripture. For example, "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law" (Heb. 7:12). How the writer drew that conclusion is at the crux of the matter regarding the principle of silence. The following verses explain: "For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood" (vv. 13-14). It is the principle of silence that makes the writer's argument reasonable.

The principle of silence states that authority is granted in the scripture by what the scriptures teach. When men say, "But the Bible doesn't say 'don't do this or that,'" they are arguing from the silence of the scripture that they may do that which the Bible does not authorize. That is the sin of presumption, and is severely condemned in God's word (2 Pet. 2:10).

## The Challenge

by Brant Stubblefield

Music is an important aspect of life, so important that God regulated its use in and for His church. Worship, in order to be pleasing to the Father, must be in spirit and in truth (Jho. 4:24). Mechanical instruments of music in worship to God stand in direct opposition to the teachings of the New Testament. The primitive church recorded on the pages of the Bible was commanded to have a specific kind of music in their worship. Notice the following passages:

**"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph 5:19).**

**"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16).**

These two verses specify the kind of music God has commanded in His church. The Bible being silent with regards to mechanical instruments of music completely destroys all hope for those who seek its use in worship. If it is utilized, it is done so without Bible authority. It did not originate in the mind of God. Christ never used it in worship. The Holy Spirit never spoke of it. The apostles never sanctioned it. The early church never employed its use. If you still favor it in worship, you have to go outside the doctrine of Christ (2 Jho. 9) and into the traditions of men (Mark 7:13) for your authority. Some site the Old Testament as proof for the instrument, yet rightly dividing the word of truth requires a sharp separation of the covenants (2 Tim. 2:15).

Scripture clearly states, "He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second" (Heb. 10:9). Furthermore the old law was nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14). Those who travel back under the old system for matters of doctrine will find themselves falling from the grace of God (Gal. 5:4).

Seeing that the case has been proven, it comes down to a respect or lack thereof for God. One who ventures to come into His presence must do so with reverence and awe (Heb. 12:28). Friend, will you be so brave, as to walk away from man made religion into the light of God's heavenly truths?

In defense of the gospel and the three hundred souls who walked out crying, we challenge Mark Henderson to a public debate on this vital subject. If politics is worth debating, then surely religion is also. "And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God" (Acts 19:8).

## Bible Authority

by Rick Popejoy

In every aspect of our lives we are governed by authority: government, military, work, school, sports, family or business. In religious matters, God is the supreme authority over all things. The New Testament, delivered (Jude 3) and inspired by God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) is the rulebook for both "life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3).

According to Jesus, there will be many religious people who will not enter into heaven (Mat. 7:21-23). Our Savior says, we must do the will of the Father in order to go to heaven. Later He said, "If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (Jho. 8:31-32, 36).

### Authority? Not:

- ☞ One's Parents (Gal. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:16; Acts 7:51; Mat. 10:37).
- ☞ Man's Conscience (Pro. 16:25; Acts 23:1; Gal. 1:13; Acts 26:9-11).
- ☞ The Creeds of Men (Jer. 10:23; Mat. 15:19; 1 Cor. 2:5; Gal. 1:8).
- ☞ The Majority (Exo. 25:2; Mat. 7:13-14; Acts 4:19-20; Rom. 8:31).

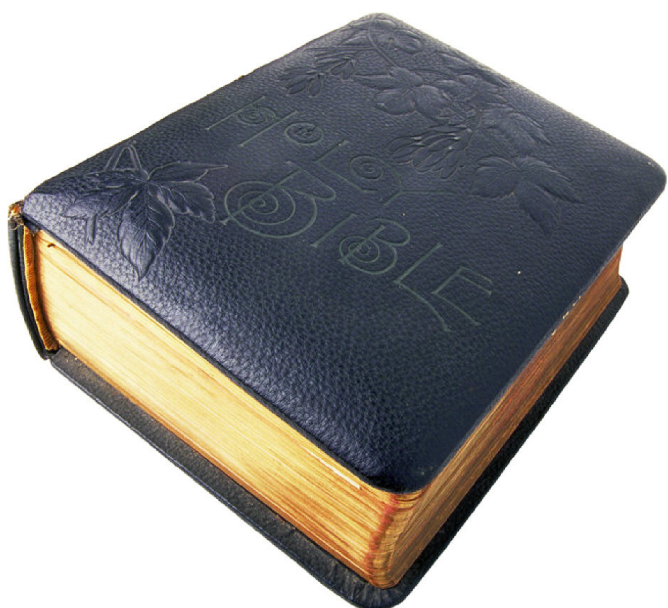
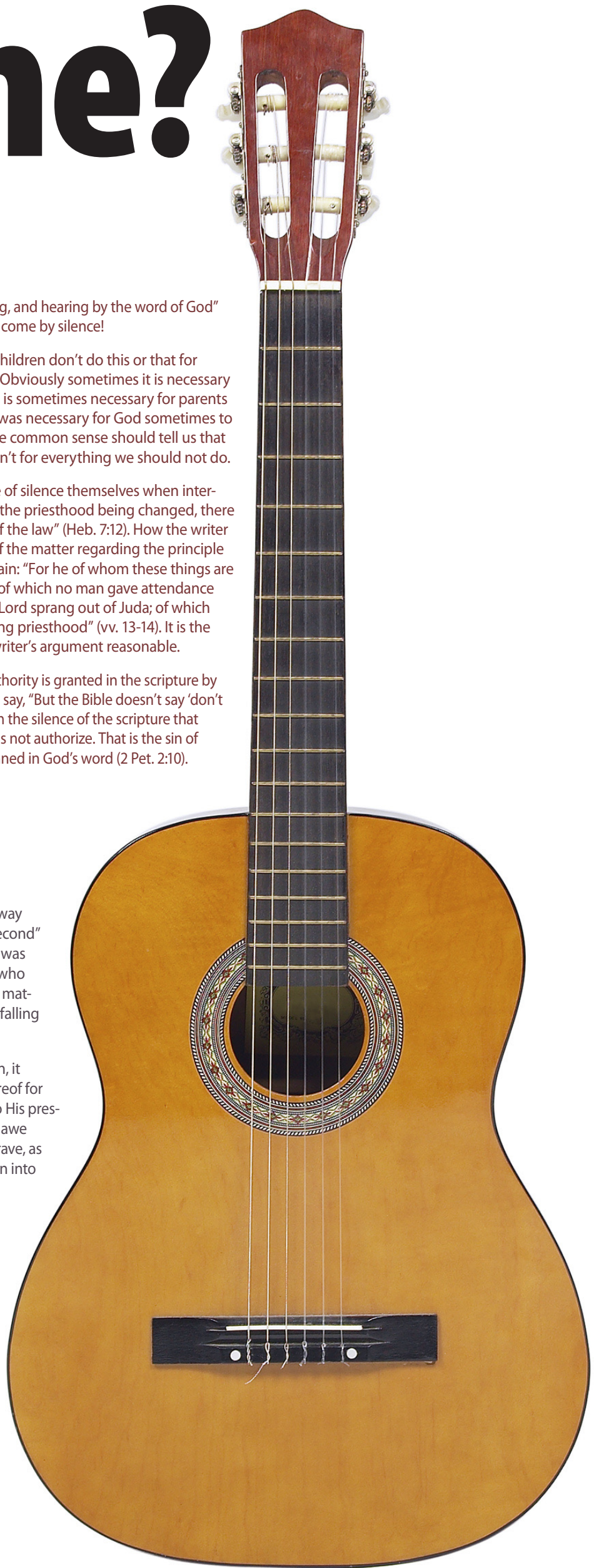
### Authority? Yes:

- ☞ God the Father (Gen. 1:1; Acts 17:24).
- ☞ God the Son (Mat. 17:5; 28:18-20; Heb. 12:25).
- ☞ God the Holy Spirit (Jho. 14:26; 16:13; Acts 5:3-4).
- ☞ The Apostles (Jho. 14:26; 16:13; Mat. 18:18; Eph. 3:5).
- ☞ The New Testament (Jho. 12:48).

Paul encourages us to "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good" (1 The. 5:21).

### Salvation Pattern:

- ☞ Hearing the Gospel (Jho. 6:45; Rom. 10:17).
- ☞ Believing the Gospel (Mark 16:16; Jho. 8:24).
- ☞ Repenting of sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
- ☞ Confessing the name of Jesus (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10).
- ☞ Being immersed for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- ☞ Worshipping faithfully (Jho. 4:24; Eph. 5:19).
- ☞ Living faithfully unto God (Rev. 2:10).



## Oklahoma churches rise up, Henderson marked

EDMOND, OK - Pursuant to the Lord's instructions in Romans 16:17, congregations all across Oklahoma and Texas have marked and now publicly identify Mark Henderson as a false teacher for adding elements to the worship which God did not authorize; thereby placing himself outside of fellowship with God and the church. Typically churches of Christ refrain from publicizing such news to the world. When Mark Henderson made the issue public via the Daily Oklahoman, it became our responsibility to do the same. Prayers and supplications still rise on Henderson's behalf for his repentance.



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