

Silent and Listen

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. Have you noticed that the words “silent” and “listen” have the same letters, arranged to create two words that share a similar purpose?
 - 1. Ecc. 3:7ff - “A time to keep silence, And a time to speak”
- B. One must keep silent in order to listen
 - 1. Acts 15:12; 1Sam. 15:16

I. SILENT

- A. Grave harm can be done and great opportunities can be lost when one is silent when he ought to speak
 - 1. 2Kings 7:9; Esther 4:14; Psalm 58:1
- B. Great harm can be done when one speaks when he should remain silent
 - 1. Job 13:5; Prov. 10:19; James 1:19
- C. Men greatly err when they misunderstand the silence of God - Psalm 50:21

II. LISTEN

- A. There is a time to listen - Deut. 7:12
 - 1. It matters how you listen - Luke 8:11-15, 18
- B. And a time to refuse to hear - Deut. 13:1-3; Prov. 20:19
 - 1. When the speaker is: lying, gossiping, teaching error, back biting, railing, murmuring, flattering, fawning, persuading others to sin, expressing ignorance, boasting, using filthy speech, and any other sins of the tongue

III. GOD'S SILENCE

- A. One of the greatest questions for the ages regarding Bible authority is what does God's silence say?
 - 1. Is that silence permissive or prohibitive?
 - 2. Many believe silence gives consent; it has never been true, but is more a product of wishful thinking
 - 3. In religion, acting on the silence of scripture leads to error and innovations that brings condemnation
- B. God's silence is prohibitive - Lev. 10:1-2; Gen. 6:22; 2Sam. 7:1-7
 - 1. Silence prohibited the church at Corinth from calling themselves Paulites - 1Cor. 1:12-13
 - 2. Silence prohibited Jesus from being a priest under the Law of Moses
 - a. Heb. 7:14
 - 3. Silence prohibited the exaltation of angels to positions of divine authority - Heb. 1:5, 13
 - 4. In each of these examples God's positive commands limit what may be done. "This do in remembrance of me." No further explicit prohibition is necessary.

- C. Man is not authorized to do anything he wants to do in worship - John 4:24
 - 1. Worship becomes meaningless when we elevate human tradition (i.e. use of instruments) to doctrine in worship - Matt. 15:9
 - a. Has God ever spoken a word about instruments? What did he say about music? - Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
 - b. Waitress - what do you want for breakfast? Eggs and toast. She brings eggs and toast and steak and salad and a birthday cake. What!? You didn't say you didn't want them
 - 2. We cannot approach God in worship with a display of our own righteousness - Rom. 10:2-3

Conclusion:

- A. Be silent and listen when God speaks
- B. Job 40:1-5, 42:1-6; Hab. 2:20