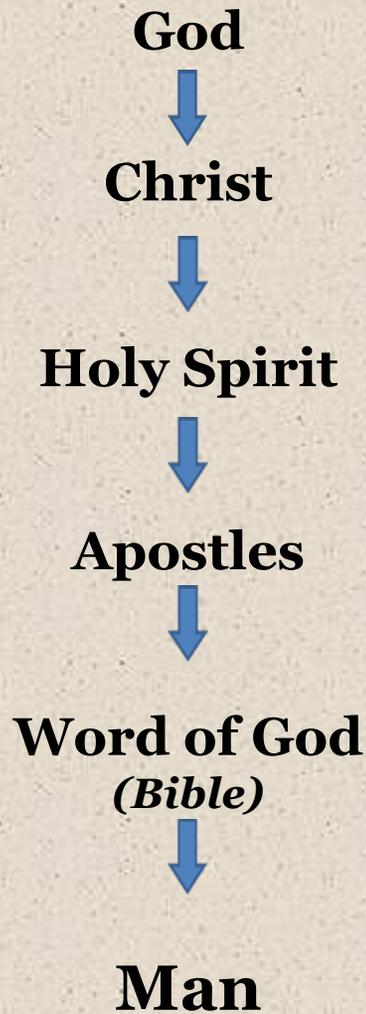


# *How Bible Authority is Revealed to Man*



*Man can thus:*

- ✓ Read the Direct revelation God
- ✓ Have confidence that it is the Truth
- ✓ Understand exactly what he is to believe
- ✓ Obey the gospel of Christ
- ✓ Become a member of God's family
- ✓ Live righteously & godly before God
- ✓ Be saved eternally

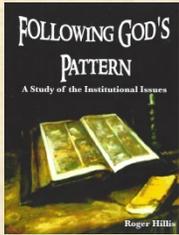
# FOLLOWING GOD'S PATTERN

A Study of the Institutional Issues



## Lesson 3

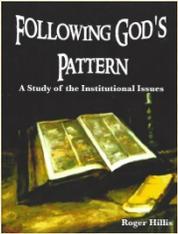
# The Silence of the Scriptures



## **Lesson 3** - The Silence of the Scriptures

# Some Statements Made About Biblical Authority

1. “We do lots of things **without** authority”
2. “Where does it say **we can't?**”
3. “It doesn't say **not to**”
4. “Where the Bible is silent, **we are free to choose**”
5. “Perhaps we need a **new hermeneutic**”



## **Lesson 3** - The Silence of the Scriptures

### **Two Questions**

- 1. Does the silence of the scriptures **prohibit** certain activities?*
- 2. Or does God's silence **allow** those activities?*



***RESPECTING  
GOD'S SILENCE***

## *What About God's Silent Authority?*

- **Silence does not mean consent**
- **Many passages teach that one MUST not act without God's permission**

## *What About God's Silent Authority?*

- ❖ John taught in John 3:4 that ***“sin is a transgression of law”***
- ❖ John reminds us in 2 John 9 that ***“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God”***
- ❖ Jesus said in Matt 7:21 ***“Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord shall enter the kingdom of heaven but he that does the will of my Father in heaven”***

# *What About God's Silent Authority?*

- Thomas Campbell, an early American gospel preacher & restorer, formed a cliché which stated,
  - *“We speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent”*
- This is predicated on 1 Peter 4:11
  - *“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God”*
- **If God has not spoken, man should not presume to speak for Him**

# *What About God's Silent Authority?*

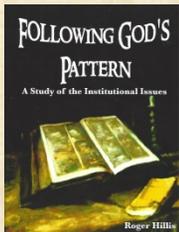
## **1. Where there is no clear:**

- **Direct Command**
- **Approved Apostolic Example**
- **Necessary Inference to act**

## **2. Any step in that direction is in violation of God's word**

# *What About God's Silent Authority?*

- ❖ The Bible teaches that **we must act at all times** by the **AUTHORITY OF CHRIST**
- ❖ Anything we do in the name of Christ that is **not authorized is LAW-LESS-NESS** and therefore sinful
- ❖ Be Careful to Speak Where the **Bible Speaks** and Be Silent Where the **Bible is Silent**
- ❖ **Obey** what God has said
- ❖ **Respect** what He has not said



## Lesson 3 - The Silence of the Scriptures

# Three Bible Examples of God's Silence

### Leviticus 10:1-2

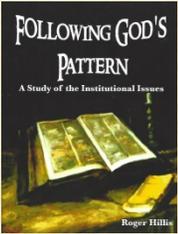
*Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire before God. They weren't told **not to do this**; they were simply told what **they were supposed to do** and then did something else.*

### Hebrews 1:5

*This is an argument for the superiority of Christ over the angels based on something **God DID NOT SAY**.*

### Hebrews 7:11-14

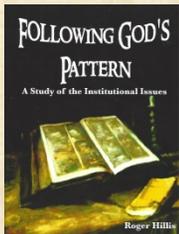
*Moses **did not** teach that those from Judah could not be priests; but he told what tribe the priests should come from and **silence eliminated all others**, even the one Christ was from.*



## Lesson 3 - The Silence of the Scriptures

### Basic Illustrations

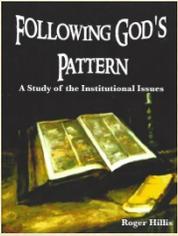
Perhaps a couple of illustrations from everyday life and a couple from the Bible will help us to understand that silence is not permission



## Lesson 3 - The Silence of the Scriptures

### Basic Illustrations

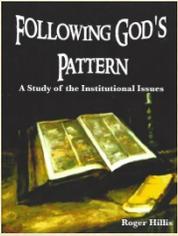
- ❖ *A search warrant – could it be argued that a judge had not said one was necessary?*



## Lesson 3 - The Silence of the Scriptures

### Basic Illustrations

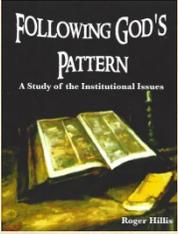
- ❖ *A search warrant – could it be argued that a judge had not said one was necessary?*
- ❖ *Mail Order Catalog – if your order was exceeded could you rightly argue that you did not tell them not to?*



## Lesson 3 - The Silence of the Scriptures

### Basic Illustrations

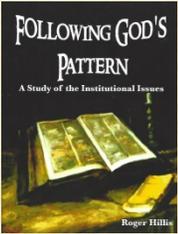
- ❖ *A search warrant – could it be argued that a judge had not said one was necessary?*
- ❖ *Mail Order Catalog – if your order was exceeded could you rightly argue that you did not tell them not to?*
- ❖ *Acts 15:23-24 – “You must be circumcised and keep the law . . . We gave no such commandment”*



## Lesson 3 - The Silence of the Scriptures

### Basic Illustrations

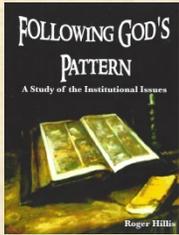
- ❖ *A search warrant – could it be argued that a judge had not said one was necessary?*
- ❖ *Mail Order Catalog – if your order was exceeded could you rightly argue that your did not tell them not to?*
- ❖ *Acts 15:23-24 – “You must be circumcised and keep the law . . . We gave no such commandment”*
- ❖ *Lord’s Supper Elements – the Bible teaches that unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine are to be used. God did not have to say other items could not be used.*



## Lesson 3 - The Silence of the Scriptures

Some examples of things that the Bible is silent about and therefore, we have **no authority** to get involved with them:

- *Church Sponsored Recreation*
- *Sponsoring Church Arrangement*
- *Human Institutions Doing the Work of the Church*



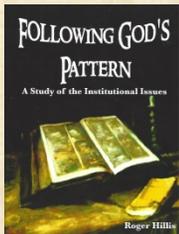
## **Lesson 3 - The Silence of the Scriptures**

Some examples of things that the Bible is silent about and therefore, we have **no authority** to get involved with them:

- *Church Sponsored Recreation*
- *Sponsoring Church Arrangement*
- *Human Institutions Doing the Work of the Church*

**The work of the local church is three-fold & only three-fold**

1. *Evangelism* – to preach and teach
2. *Edification* – to edify its members; strengthen, build up
3. *Benevolence* – limited to saints



## **Lesson 3** - The Silence of the Scriptures

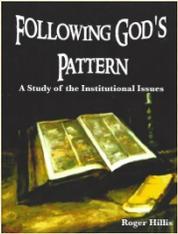
Some examples of things that the Bible is silent about and therefore, we have **no authority** to get involved with them:

- *Church Sponsored Recreation*
- *Sponsoring Church Arrangement*
- *Human Institutions Doing the Work of the Church*

**In Evangelism** – the support of Missionary Societies

**In Edification** – the support of “Christian Colleges”

**In Benevolence** – the support of Orphan’s Homes



## Lesson 3 - The Silence of the Scriptures

### Other Examples of God's Silence Include:

- *Instrumental music in worship*
- *Infant baptism*
- *Voting on church membership*
- *Clergy/laity distinction*
- *Special holy days observance*

1. Not one of these commonly practiced activities **is found anywhere** in God's word.
2. They are **not specifically condemned anywhere** in the Bible.
3. They would **only be approved** by God if He had included them in His inspired revelation.
4. Therefore, **they are all wrong**, no matter how widely they are practiced.