

Elders:

Rufus Barfield * Donnie McDaniel

Deacons:

Paul Byas * Chris Gorham * Antoine Holloway
Michael Myrick * Sheldon Smith

Evangelist:

Antoine Holloway

Worship Times:

Sunday Bible Study/9:30AM Sunday Morning Worship/10:30AM
Sunday Evening Worship/6:00PM Wednesday Bible Study/7:30PM

Meetings:

Monday Sermon Recap **Saturday Discipleship Class**
January 24th @ 7:00pm January 22nd @ 9:00am

Elders/Deacons Meeting

February 13th @ 5:00pm

2011 Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Jim Jonas of Centreville, Virginia

April 7th-10, 2011

2011 Vacation Bible School

June 20th-24th, 2011

2011 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Mark Russell of Valparaiso, Indiana

October 6th-9th, 2011

Prayer Requests (Continuing Health Problems)

Rudale Blake * Andrew Madison * Ann Wise * Lewis Wise

Prayer Requests

- David Ashabranner is relocating to Hawaii in January 2011.
- Rudale Blake & Bruce McDonald was hospitalized this past week.

Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)

Anne Harrison * Steven Chung * Angelita Dillon * John Okonkwo

Prayer Request (Traveling)

The Williams Family * Desiree Powell

Additional Announcements

- Biblical Insights are on the table in the lobby & in the resource rack.
- During Sunday Morning Worship today, we will be having our annual congregational report (Acts 14:27).

Contribution & Attendance Figures

January 9 th	\$3,671-Contribution	115-Attendance
January 2 nd	\$3,970-Contribution	108-Attendance

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear The Gospel (Acts 15:7)* Believe In Jesus (Acts 8:12) * Repent Of Our Sins (Acts 3:19)* Confess Christ To Be The Son Of God (Acts 8:37) * Be Baptized In Water (Acts 22:16)* Remain Faithful (Acts 2:42)

TODAY'S DATE: January 16, 2011

**Wildercroft
CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**6330 Auburn Avenue
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Updated Every Monday & Thursday

A GOING CHURCH FOR A COMING LORD – ROMANS 16:16

Respect The Lord's Silence

1 Peter 4:11 – "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

As Christians, we believe in providing a book, chapter, & verse for all we say, do, & believe. We believe in calling Bible things by Bible names & doing Bible things Bible ways. We speak where the Bible speaks & remain silent where the Bible is silent. This article was written because everybody does not believe this or they say they believe this, but they do not correctly apply it.

When addressing the silence of the Scriptures, there are two different attitudes expressed:

1. Silence = Permission. I can do what seems to be right.
2. Silence = Prohibition. I can only do & speak where the Bible speaks.

Based upon these two attitudes, one of two things is true:

1. Either one is right & the other is wrong OR:
2. Both are wrong because both cannot be right.

Since these positions are opposite of one the other, then it is clear one is right & the other is wrong. My question is: Which one is right? Before this question can be answered, we must first ask ourselves the question: Does the silence of the scriptures authorize anything? As stated in times past, we must go to the authority, which is the word of God, to search for this answer. Listen to your Bible! In **1 Corinthians 2:9-11**, the Bible reads, **"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man, which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."** This scripture teaches us all we know about the will of God is what God has revealed. We cannot know the mind of God by His silence. So, silence does not authorize anything. We cannot know whether God will be pleased with anything we do, unless He has revealed His will on that thing. For example:

- As a result of **John 4:23-24**, we know God is pleased when we worship Him in spirit & in truth. How do we know this? We know this because the Bible reads, **"But the hour cometh, & now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit & in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: & they that worship him must worship him in spirit & in truth."**
- As a result of **Ephesians 4:8-12**, we know what God wants the church to do. God wants the church to preach the word, edify the saints, & care for her needy. How do we know this? We know this because the Bible reads, **"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, & gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; & some, prophets; & some, evangelists; & some, pastors & teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."**

We know God is pleased with these things because He has revealed them in His word. God was not silent in regards to them. However, He was very silent about churches becoming state wide organizations, having trained choirs, building fellowship halls, using mechanical instruments of music in worship, sponsoring chicken dinners, bake sales, ice cream socials, having women preachers, & holy roller entertainment & recreation. It has become a sad day in this generation when many in religion believe deep in their hearts God is pleased with a thing because they are pleased with it.

Some will affirm we do many things without authority. They will affirm the Bible does not cover ALL we do. Some will even say being unscriptural is not a bad thing. Many have gone out of their way to play word games to try & convince the masses we are not to be anti-scriptural i.e. rebel against what God has explicitly prohibited, but it is okay to be unscriptural i.e. the Bible is silent about it therefore, this gives us permission to act & God would be pleased. However, what they fail to realize is being anti-scriptural & unscriptural are both unauthorized by Christ.

God has made it very clear silence prohibits, for when God tells us what to do, then that eliminates everything else. Silence does not give us permission to act, but it prohibits us from acting. We must act with authority from Christ, doing all in His name (**Colossians 3:17**). Our teaching & practices must stop, where God's word stops.

-Antoine N. Holloway