

His Workmanship: Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*

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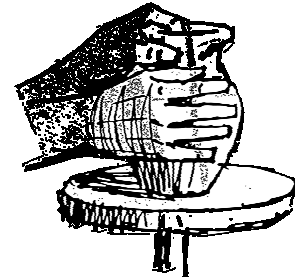
When the Lord Says Nothing, by Donald Townsley

Most religious people labor under the false impression that a spiritual thing is not wrong if the Lord has not specifically said in plain words that it is wrong. When we question many practices in religion, the reply often is "But where did God say not to do it?" It is this attitude that causes some religious people to see nothing wrong in many of their practices that are foreign to New Testament authority. They seem to have the impression that the silence of the scriptures gives them license to practice anything that is not specifically forbidden! This attitude makes what God did not say more important than what He did say, and opens the floodgate for many unscriptural practices. This is a misunderstanding of how God authorizes what He wants done.

The Principle of Silence. When nothing is spoken by God on a subject, that silence prohibits the practice. Notice the argument: "For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah; of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood," Heb 7:14. Moses neither specifically allowed it, nor specifically prohibited it—he said nothing about it. Since he spoke nothing about those from the tribe of Judah serving as priests, they were prohibited from serving by the silence of God. This is a principle that at one time most all of

God's people understood, but it is not understood anymore by many of His people (and by many who call themselves gospel preachers). The result of not understanding the principle has brought many innovations in the church. Passages that teach we must not go beyond what is written.

1. *Now these things, brethren, I have applied to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, 'Do not go beyond what is written.' Then you will not take pride in one man over against another,"* 1 Cor 4:6.
2. *"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God,"* 1 Pet. 4:11.
3. *"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ [Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ] does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son,"* 2 John 9.
4. *"For we walk by faith, not by sight,"* 2 Cor 5:7.
5. *"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book,"* Rev 22:18-19.
6. *"You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may*



Isaiah 64:8

keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you," Deut 4:2.

Going beyond what God has authorized is a presumptuous sin. "Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression," Ps 19:13. Nadab and Abihu were devoured by fire that went out from the Lord because they offered "strange [profane] fire" before the Lord, "which He had not commanded them," Lev 10:1. They presumed upon the silence of the God's word. God had said that the fire was to come from the "burning coals of fire from the altar before the Lord," Lev 16:12, but they offered fire which the Lord "had not commanded them," Lev 10:1, and lost their lives. Modern religious practices that are prohibited by the silence of the scriptures. Practicing sprinkling and pouring for baptism is not authorized by the Lord. The Bible does not say "thou shalt not sprinkle and thou shalt not pour for baptism," but the very silence of the scriptures prohibits these practices. The New Testament authorizes people to be immersed or buried in baptism, Rm 6: 3-4; Ax 8:38-39. When God authorizes what He wants, this excludes everything else. When the New Testament teaches that baptism is for the remission of sins, Ax 2:38, this excludes a person being baptized because he is already saved.

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SILENCE of the SCRIPTURES: “[They] offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them,” Leviticus 10:1, from p. 1

Christ authorized unleavened bread and fruit of the vine in the Lord's Supper, Mt 26:26-28; 1 Cor 10:16, and this excluded meat, pie, and anything else anyone might desire to include.

Church-sponsored recreation is prohibited by the silence of the scriptures. The local church is authorized to do three kinds of work: preach the gospel to the lost, 1 Tim 3: 15; Mt 28:19; edify and teach Christians to build them up in the faith, Mt 28:20; Eph 4:11-12; and help its own in need, 1 Cor 16:1-2; Ax 2:44-45. The scriptures are silent about the church doing anything else. Therefore, the church should not have a ball team because God says nothing about the church going into the recreation business. Church recreation is prohibited by the silence of the scriptures. God did tell us where eating and drinking was to take place in the life of a Christian. He tells us that this is to be done at home: *“What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you,”* 1 Cor 11:22. Methodists have as much authority for the sprinkling as some brethren do for their recreation—they both dishonor the authority and silence of the scriptures!

The playing of musical instruments in worship is excluded because God says nothing concerning using them in worship to Him. God tells us to sing, Eph 5:19; Col 3:16. Chorus (or choir) singing in the assembly (for entertainment or any other purpose) is prohibited by the silence of the scripture. Singing in worship has two divine purposes: (1) Praise and thanksgiving to God, Heb 13:15; Ax 16:25; Rm 15:9; Jas 5:13; and (2) teaching and admonishing others, Eph 5:19; Col 3:16. This excludes singing for any other purpose. All Christians are to sing in worship to God, Eph

5:19; Col 3:16. This excludes choirs.

“Brotherhood elderships” (a *“sponsoring church”* arrangement) are prohibited by the silence of the scriptures. The local church is authorized Phil 1:1; Ax 14:23, but the Bible is silent concerning the *“sponsoring church.”* God specified elders to oversee the church that is among them, 1 Pet 5:2; Ax 20:28.

The New Testament teaches that there is but one church, Mt 16:18; Eph.4:4; 1:22-23. This excludes and prohibits all other churches.

Let us all learn this lesson well—that when God says nothing, man must not act! The silence of God is as binding as His word, Rev 22:18-19.

Compassion, by *Berry Kercheville*

“Did you see what he did?”

“Oh, I know. I can't believe he did that in church! And did you notice that new couple and how she was dressed?”

“Yes, it's awful. Someone ought to talk to her. We don't need that around here. Oh, and I have to say, I'm fed up with crying kids, especially during the Lord's Supper.”

“Me, too! When our kids were young, we kept them quiet!”

If you are like me, you have said one of the above statements or at least heard it said. It is truly sad that we can so easily judge others instead of seeing what is really important to the Lord: a soul is seeking Him.

Notice Jesus's response when He saw a sinful crowd: *“When He saw the crowd, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”* Mt 9:36-38. When I think about the judgmental comments I've made and comments I have heard others make, I remember Jesus's attitude toward a lost world. Were tax

collectors and sinners terrible people? They certainly were. And that is why Jesus dined with them and was compassionate toward them. *“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick,”* Jesus said, Mt 9:12; Mk 2:17; Lk 5:31. The people near us, our neighbors, family, friends, are very often *“weary and scattered, like sheep without a shepherd.”* Like us, they are typically blind to their own flaws, sins.

What the Lord needs from us is laborers who will go into the harvest, not judgmental Christians who like Simon the Pharisee are disgusted by the sinfulness of those seeking the Lord, Lk 7:36-51. To our shame, we do not merely censure the sinfulness of others, we are often even critical of people just because they look or act differently from what we are accustomed or because they don't know the unwritten rules for our worship.

Yes, that person didn't do what you or I would have done. Would you rather he didn't come to worship God? Would you rather he weren't saved? Is it so painful that you cannot rejoice over a prodigal who is trying to return home? After all, few can be as perfect as we are! *****

Some State Employees Rebel Against Gay Marriage Ruling

In Decatur County, Tennessee, the clerk and two employees—the whole office—resigned, effective July 14, rather than issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and a Texas clerk said she will not obey the court's *“lawless”* ruling. Traditional marriage advocates are urging lawmakers to enact the First Amendment Defense Act, introduced by Sen. Mike Lee of Utah and Rep. Raul Labrador of Idaho, both Republicans. This legislation—which would stop the government from taking *“any discriminatory action”* against someone who objects to same-sex marriage because of their religious faith—should be passed, Brian Brown told National Organization for Marriage.



Psalm 133:1

God makes my heart clean in 2015 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

Bakery Ordered to Shut Up, from p. 4 "resumption of smoking habit," "shock," "surprise," "stunned," and "uncertainty," and they won the lawsuit. Whatever they say they felt, it pales in comparison to what they have forced from the Kleins. Oregon officials are now in full-blown damage control over Avakian's ruling. When news of the order went viral, they tried to refute the story by recruiting their friends on the Left to explain it away. Slate obliged, posting a lengthy column on how the gag order wasn't, in fact, a gag order. With verbal gymnastics that could have medaled in the London Games, the site took the Daily Signal to task for "misreading" the commissioner's threat. Of course, attorneys from Fox News to Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) had already studied the text and concurred: anything Aaron and Melissa said about their case could be declared an act of "discrimination." And while both sides agree that the commissioner's language was intentionally vague, its potential to do damage is not. As the Daily Signal pointed out, "[Mark] Stern [of Slate] either didn't read in depth the interviews of the Kleins that Avakian relied on—or didn't care how flimsy Avakian's case was..."

The government officials caught cluding against the Kleins have Twitter accounts full of gay activism. Unfortunately, this is how bullies operate—they push until they're challenged.

Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow at The Heritage Foundation, said Oregon citizens should be "ashamed." "This order is an outrageous abuse of the

Discipleship Here At Home

Kenyans Warn Obama: Don't Bring Gay or Abortion Agenda Here Follow-up to last week's article on Zimbabwe's President's marriage proposal to Obama: At a small pro-family demonstration at the parliament in Nairobi Monday, organized by the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya, participants called on the US president not to raise the subject of gay rights or abortion during his visit. "It is important for us as Kenyans to know that the US is not God," media quoted evangelical Bishop Mark Kariuki, adding that Obama should not use the visit to "talk about the gay issue." Irungu Kangata, a lawmaker in President Uhuru Kenyatta's The National Alliance (TNA) party, was blunter: "We are telling Mr. Obama when he comes to Kenya this month and he tries to bring the abortion agenda, the gay agenda, we shall tell him to shut up and go home."

rights of the Kleins to freely [sic] practice their religion under the First Amendment," he said. "It is exactly this kind of oppressive persecution by government officials that led the pilgrims to [seek freedom of religion in] America. Commissioner Avakian's order that the Kleins stop speaking about this case is even more outrageous—[because it is also] a fundamental violation of their right to free speech under the First Amendment. Avakian would have fit right in as a bureaucrat in the Soviet Union or Red China. Oregon should be ashamed that such an unprincipled, scurrilous individual is a government official in the state."

In Colorado, Masterpiece Cakes's Jack Phillips—of the growing club of persecuted, natural marriage-believing Christians—is taking his turn in court. Jack, who turned down a same-sex wedding job in 2012, has watched his case wind through Colorado's Civil Rights Commission (with a "discrimination" charge) to the CO Court of Appeals. Like the Kleins, Jack Phillips is represented by ADF, who argued that "The right to be free from compelled speech applies to everyone, not just those who hold the 'right' views in the eyes of society."

Interestingly enough, the same state that found Jack guilty just vindicated a

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

· **Ed Fink**—prostate cancer worse, spread to liver; has chosen hospice to come to his home
· **Marie Sangellino**—thyroid cancer post-surgery hospitalization for low calcium; awaiting biopsy results
· **Danny Dodd**, formerly of Westside—full brain radiation at St. Anthony's Hospital as outpatient
· **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer; improving, MRI clear; treatment continues
· **Bill Dennis**—home following rehab on infected knee drainage; pseudo-gout; getting stronger
* **Aubrie** and **Aaron Andrews**, friends of **Boyd**
—**Aaron** lost foot in motorcycle accident; pray they will be receptive to the gospel
* **Sandra Perry**—diabetes complications
* **Sylvia Chapman**, **Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; Brett's grandmother
Sue, and Aunt **Bonnie Doss**—cancer returned
* **Brittany Tope's** mother—breast cancer, improving; grandmother—on dialysis
* **Gregg Geis's** friend **Taylor Olson**—overdosed recently; pray for his family
* **Sheryle McNeill's** daughter **Tiffany** and **Ed's** son

Rodney Schulz—pray they receive gospel

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

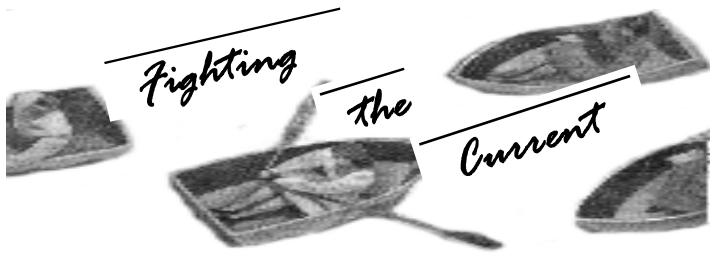
Logan Corray; **Addison Tope**; **Christian Harrod**; **Rocco Jr.**; **Pat Wilkes**—asthma
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Kirk Johnson—MS; pelvic bone atrophying
Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, Alzheimers;
Virginia, macular degeneration; high bp
Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis;
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness
Passing **Johnny Horton**, formerly an evangelist for Westside, passed away Friday; arrangements pending

Travel **Gintchins** are in Bulgaria until Aug.

Rejoice **Janell Hall** recently put on her Lord in baptism and has determined to work and worship with the Westside church:

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Denver baker who objected to putting a Bible verse on a cake. If Marjorie Silva could turn down an order based on "her standards of offensiveness," why not Phillips? Christians are asking only for the same accommodation for their views that liberals already enjoy. Instead, liberals seem intent on punishing what they claim to champion: diversity. In the process, they're effectively answering the question "How will same-sex 'marriage' affect you?"



Exposing current thoughts & trends *rainbow jihad*

Oregon Orders Bakery Owners to Be Silent, *by Philip Hodges*

Liberals argue that legalized same-sex marriage doesn't harm anyone. Tell that to the Kleins, who because of a lawsuit and subsequent loss of business had to close their store and take a job as a garbage man. This business was fined \$135,000 under Oregon's "Equality Act of 2007" for "mentally raping" a lesbian couple who wanted cakes made for their wedding. Sweet Cakes had politely declined the order. They had served homosexuals before with no problem, but when it came to catering a same-sex wedding and in effect endorsing the idea in violation of what they believed, the business drew the line.

Now, the Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian has ordered them more than once to keep their mouths shut about what they believe. The Daily Signal reported: "In the ruling, Avakian placed an effective gag order on the seven-member Klein family, ordering them to 'cease and desist' from speaking publicly about not wanting to bake cakes for same-sex weddings based on their Christian beliefs. 'This effectively strips us of all our First Amendment rights,' the Kleins, owners of Sweet Cakes by Melissa, which has since closed, wrote on their Facebook page. 'According to the state of Oregon we neither have freedom of religion or freedom of speech.'"

The cease and desist order came about after Aaron and Melissa Klein participated in an interview with Family Research Council's Tony Perkins. During the interview, Aaron said, "This fight is not over. We will continue to stand strong." Lawyers for the lesbian plaintiffs, Rachel and Laurel Bowman-Cryer, argued that in making this statement, the Kleins violated an Oregon law banning people from acting on behalf of a place of public accommodation (in this case, the place was the Kleins' former bakery) to communicate anything to the effect that the place of public accommodation would discriminate.

"The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries hereby orders [Aaron and Melissa Klein] to cease and desist from publishing, circulating, issuing or displaying, or causing to be published...any communication to the effect that any of the accommodations...will be refused, withheld from or denied to, or that any discrimination be made against, any person on account of their sexual orientation," Avakian wrote. The Kleins have lost a large chunk of their livelihood in the court process. Now they're being ordered to shut up.

The lesbian couple claimed to have experienced some 88 mental, physical, and emotional "damages" following being refused service by Sweet Cakes. All they had to do was make the list, which included "acute loss of confidence," "doubt," "excessive sleep," "felt mentally raped, dirty and shameful," "high blood pressure," "impaired digestion," "loss of appetite," "migraine headaches," "pale and sick at home after work," "weight gain," "worry,"

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meets at
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Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Bible classes | 9:00 am |
| Morning assembly | 10:00 am |
| Afternoon assembly | 1:30 pm |

Wednesday

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Bible classes | 7:30 pm |
|---------------|---------|

Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, "*A Life-Changing Encounter with God's Word from the Gospel According to John*," Jonathan Hadders

- **Sermon**, "Is Divine Authority Subject to Human Approval?" Jim Reingrover

- **Sunday afternoon**, "Jesus: the Compassionate Provider," Payton Miller