Is Silence License?

"For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood" (Heb 7:14). Jesus could not have been a priest when He lived on the earth - He would have been in violation of God's Law - He would have been acting on the silence of the Scripture. The silence of the Scripture does not give us permission to act; it confines the actions by which we may serve God.

Many believe that if the Scriptures do not forbid something then it is allowable with God's blessings. Can you imagine the "Pandora's box" that principle opens? That kind of thinking will influence us to direct of our own lives, which God said we are not capable of doing (Jer 10:23)! The apostles once wrote these words to Christians outside Judea. "We have heard that some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls" (Acts 15:24). The apostles said that anyone who speaks without their authority disturbs the unity of the church and unsettles the followers of Christ. That is why Peter commanded, "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet 4:11). We should all take a good hard look at the organization, work and worship of our churches. Do we align with New Testament instruction, or do we act on the silence of the Scripture? This principle applies to our personal lives as well. By-Boyd Jennings

God's Promise To Joshua: Assurance and Accountability

By: Jay Dixon

In Joshua 1:5, God assured Joshua of His support. Just as He had been with Moses, GOD promised to never leave or forsake Joshua. Joshua witnessed the challenges Moses and Aaron faced in leading the people, including the complaints and doubts from the ancestors of those Joshua was now entrusted to guide to the promised land. Yet, God reassured him of His steadfast support and guidance.

God declared that no one would be able to stand against him throughout his life. This assurance was vital, as crossing the Jordan River and entering the promised land meant encountering massive challenges. However, God guaranteed that none of these nations would prevail because of His presence.

This promise brings profound comfort for us regarding the battles we face against Satan, along with the external resistance, and internal struggles we deal with. The knowledge that God will never abandon us in these challenges offers great reassurance.

However, God's promise is dependent on accountability and responsibility. Joshua was instructed to be strong and very courageous, faithfully keeping the law given by Moses without turning to the left or the right, so that he would prosper wherever he went.

Joshua's promise of prosperity depended on his obedience and dedication to the path God laid out for him. This took a great deal of faith, as the journey ahead was full of challenges and temptations that could lead him off course.

Joshua 1:8 stresses that the Book of the Law should be on Joshua's lips and meditated upon always. By doing so, he would be placing it in his heart, inevitably influencing his speech and decisions as he led the people, enabling them to faithfully follow what is written. It is impossible to obey what we do not know, nor can we speak meaningfully about something we have not studied.

Joshua undoubtedly had a responsibility; however, assurance of victory did not rely solely on Joshua's leadership but on God's guidance through him. God would ensure their prosperity and guarantee their victory, as He had promised, "I will be with you," a promise extended to all who strive to follow God's will.

6/15/25

Gospel Meeting

Guest Speaker
Jay Dixon
June 27th-29^{th,} 7:00 PM Nightly
Sunday morning Bible Study, 10 AM
Sunday morning worship 11 AM
Sunday evening worship 6 PM



Southend Church of Christ, 250 Hwy 317, Neon, Ky 41840 www.southendchurchofchrist.org

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00AM Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

Everyone Is Welcome To Attend!

The Value of Positive "Peer Pressure"

I wasn't ready to do it yet. I really didn't want to get started at it. But, my neighbor had already mowed his grass two times, and my yard was looking pretty shabby. I figured if he mowed a third time before I mowed the first time, it would really make me look bad. So, even though I wasn't really in the mood, I got the mower out of the garage and went to work.

How often have you been motivated in a similar fashion? Maybe it was at work or school. Perhaps it was a project or chore that you really dreaded. But someone else did something that made you realize that you needed to get to work.

We often talk about "peer pressure." Most often we mention it with a negative connotation. In this regard we are talking about how others can influence us to do evil. We are "pressured" to talk, act and dress like worldly people do. There is great danger in this, and we have rightfully warned about these negative influences. "Evil companions corrupt good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33).

But, there is a positive side to "peer pressure" that we may be tempted to overlook. When we are around good people who are doing good things, we are motivated to follow their example. We are urged to get busy in the work of the Lord. We are encouraged to live right. We are moved to imitate them and be like them. This is good and helpful.

We are to "exhort one another daily" (Hebrews 3:13), and to "consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:24). Christian, are you setting a good example for others? Are you motivating them in positive ways? Are you helping your brothers and sisters to be more like God wants them to be? Think! - by Greg Gwin