

MADRID CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, JANUARY 01, 2017



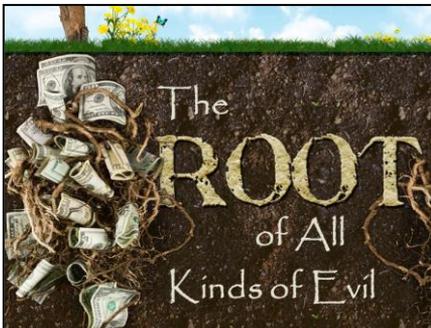
"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL" (EPHESIANS 6:11).

We are in the midst of a great spiritual war. Every day, there are battles that we face. Temptations and trials are brought against us by our powerful adversary. At these times, we are often unprepared because we have either 1.) not been equipping ourselves to fight or 2.) we have been trying to fight the battle by ourselves without seeking help from others as we should. As we focus on putting on the armor of God and on being good soldiers of Christ during 2017, hopefully we can all be equipped to face this war we are a part of, and come out on the other end, by God's grace, victorious and faithful as Christian soldiers.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9AM

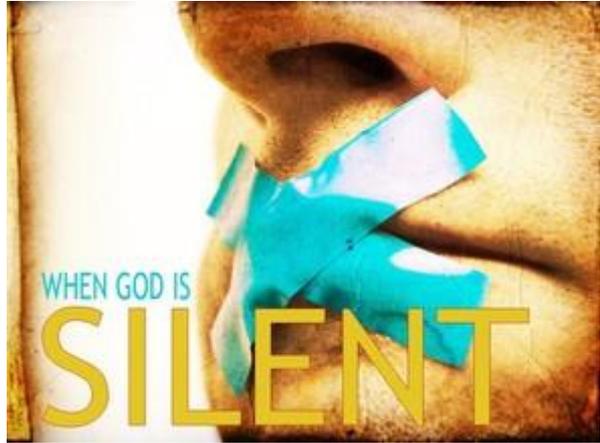
11AM



When God is Silent

By Jason Smith

What do we do when our King is silent on a matter? Does God's silence prohibit or permit? This has been a topic of debate for centuries, and is one which I have wrestled with for years. Below are a few principles and passages of scripture that show



some of the conclusions I have come to in my studies of Bible Authority:

First, if we are seeking to please God, we will only do that which we know is pleasing to Him. We will examine what He does say, and base our practices on what is revealed by our Shepherd. Jesus gives us a great example of this in John 5. In verse 19 He says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner." He says in verse 30, "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." Is this not the kind of attitude we need to have if we want to please God? We should only want to do what we know is pleasing to Him; what we know will bring Him glory. The reason why we shouldn't want to act on silence is because it is acting in an area of the unknown when it comes to God's will. If we don't know if it is pleasing to God, we should not want to do it as His people.

We need to remember: The **ONLY** way we can know for certain that something is pleasing or displeasing to our King is if He reveals it to us through His Apostles and Prophets in the New Testament. When God is truly 100% silent on a matter, we (as those who desire to please Him) need to show some caution in saying that God condemns **or** approves of something. It is dangerous to be presumptuous either way when God does not reveal His mind on a matter. God is the only One who can

properly commend and approve, and He is the only One who can properly condemn and disapprove. Silence should not be seen as a reason to condemn an action or commend an action. Silence does not communicate anything. It is... silence. At times, “we don’t know” is the best thing we could say regarding what God feels about a topic. We may not like giving this answer, but it is at times the best answer to give so we are not guilty of misrepresenting God. We should stick with the old saying: "speak where the Bible speaks and are silent when the Bible is silent."

Second, God is not silent about as many things as we think He may be. Here are two reasons as to why this is the case:

- First, there may be some general principles or commands that apply to a subject not specifically mentioned in the New Testament. For instance, God does not specifically mention dancing or condemn dancing in the New Testament, but He is not totally silent about it because He gives us some other commands that can be applied to dancing. He gives other commands in scripture that show that some kinds of dancing are displeasing to Him. In Galatians 5:19-21, in Paul's listing of the “works of the flesh,” he condemns what is variously translated “lewdness” or “lasciviousness” or “licentiousness.” These words carry the idea of “indecent bodily movements that can arouse indecent sexual desire.” That describes many (not all) kinds of dancing done today.
- Second, we also need to remember that not everything that is authorized must be specified. General authority is given often, which includes matters not specifically mentioned in scripture. For instance, we are commanded to go into all the world to preach the Gospel. The specifics of how to "go" are not given. This being the case, we have the freedom to choose any mode of transportation and to use the various forms of electronic communication that we have been blessed with to teach God's word.

I could give more points about how to deal with matters God does talk about in His word, but hopefully these points give you a few helpful things to consider when thinking about the “silence” of our King.

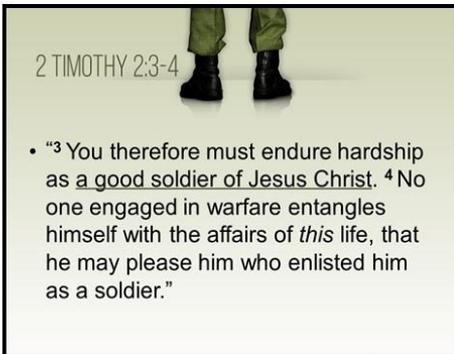
Visitors: Thank you for coming today!

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or contact us using the information on the front of this bulletin. We would be happy to schedule a time to sit down with you and to answer your questions from God's word. If there is anything we can do to help you spiritually, please let us know. We are here to serve!

Upcoming Events:

- **01/08 @ 9AM** - Congregational Meeting
 - **01/08** Some brethren are planning to go to an Iowa State girl's basketball game after services. Talk to Joel if you are interested in going.
 - **02/05 @ 9AM** - Song Service
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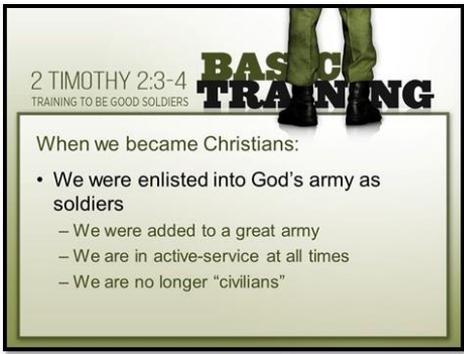
Sermon Slides:



2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4



- ³You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”



2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4
TRAINING TO BE GOOD SOLDIERS



BASIC TRAINING

When we became Christians:

- We were enlisted into God's army as soldiers
 - We were added to a great army
 - We are in active-service at all times
 - We are no longer "civilians"



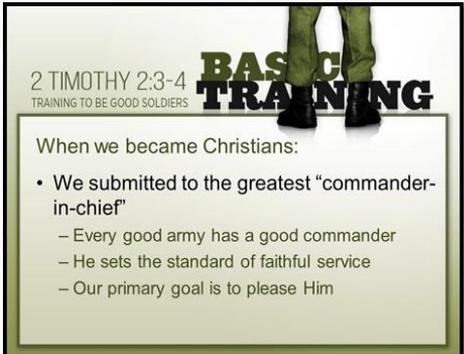
2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4
TRAINING TO BE GOOD SOLDIERS



BASIC TRAINING

THERE IS A WAR OUT THERE!

- We are facing battle after battle against a powerful adversary
 - Ephesians 6:10-12
 - 1 Peter 5:8
- Tribulations will come
 - John 15:20
 - John 16:33



2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4
TRAINING TO BE GOOD SOLDIERS



BASIC TRAINING

When we became Christians:

- We submitted to the greatest "commander-in-chief"
 - Every good army has a good commander
 - He sets the standard of faithful service
 - Our primary goal is to please Him