When the Bible Is Silent
Heb. 7:14

Introduction:
A. The Hebrew writer’s argument.
   1. The law provided for priests of the tribe of Levi (v. 11).
   2. The law said nothing about priests of the tribe of Judah (v. 14).
   3. The law had to be changed for Jesus to be a priest (v. 12).
B. The Hebrew writer’s argument illustrates a vital principle of divine law.
   1. Silence does not permit, but rather prohibits religious activity.
   2. If the law says nothing about it, cannot be done without a change in the law.
C. There are several subjects that we can apply this principle.

Discussion:
I. Church Music.
   A. New Testament speaks of singing (1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
   B. New Testament says nothing of playing an instrument in worship.
      1. “But it does not say not to” – Nor coke and hamburgers on Lord’s table.
      3. “But you have instruments in your homes” – Morally right, religiously wrong (cf. Mk 7:3-7).
II. Church Finances.
   A. New Testament speaks of Christians “laying by in store” on first day of week. (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7)
   B. New Testament says nothing of:
      1. Taking collection on any other day.
      2. Business enterprises.
      3. Begging from the world.
III. Church Organization.
   A. New Testament speaks of local churches with local officers. (Acts 14:23; Phil. 1:1; Tit. 1:3; 1 Pet. 5:2).
   B. New Testament says nothing of any organization higher or lower.
      1. No association, convention, synod, etc. of churches.
      2. No combining of churches as an unit for church work.
IV. Church Work.
   A. New Testament speaks of Evangelism, Benevolence, and Edification (Phil. 1:5; 4:15, 16; 1 Tim. 5:16; Eph. 4:12, 16).
   B. New Testament says nothing of:
      1. Church sponsored recreation.
      2. Church sponsored social work.
      3. Church sponsored political action.

Conclusion:
A. If you want to do something in religion:
   1. Either find it in scriptures.
   2. Or, be prepared to show that you have the power to change the law.