

Oak Grove Church of Christ

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening Worship: 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class: 7:30 PM

Evangelist: Bruce J. Dehut

*Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request*

Oak Grove church of Christ
9203 Thixton Lane
Louisville, KY 40291



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24

FEBRUARY 5, 2006

"I DIDN'T ORDER THAT!"

By Boyd Sellers

We all demand that our silence be respected. No one has the right to presume about what we did not say. Suppose, for example, that you order a pair of socks and a shirt from WARDS. Three days later a pleasant caller informs you that your order has arrived. At the catalog center, you give the attendant your name and you ask for your order. Minutes later he returns with one small package and two large ones. He enumerates orally, "One pair of socks, one shirt, one riding lawn-mower, and one lounge chair." "The socks and the shirt are mine," you say, "But I did not order the mower and the chair." What would be your reaction if he offered his apologies and then told you they were yours anyway because you didn't say not to send them? Would you feel obligated to pay for the mower and the chair?

Or, to further illustrate, what would you do if your

overzealous mechanic changed your oil as you requested, and also fixed you up with a new set of tires because you didn't say not to? Would you refuse those tires? I believe there is a principle involved in this matter: Your spoken word is sufficient and final as far as your order is concerned. By that word WARDS knew exactly what you wanted, and it gave them authority to act on your behalf with your approval. On the other hand, your silence did not authorize WARDS to send you anything, and what you did not say gave the mechanic no authority to fix you up with new tires. It matters not how badly the mechanic thinks your car needs new tires. All they have to go on is your word; what you did say! It would be foolish indeed to think that WARDS was authorized to charge you for every item you did not want, or that a mechanic could do anything you didn't tell him not to do! When it is not on the order, it is refused! WARDS gets the mower and the chair back. The mechanic gets his tires back. All you ordered was a pair of socks, a shirt, and an oil change, and that is all you wanted!

Now all of that is trivial compared to the message I want to convey. Jehovah demands that His silence be respected! It matters not how "well-meaning" people might be, or how badly some might think God needs something new. All we have to go on is what God has revealed in His written Word, the Bible. God has always rejected human wisdom that presumed to know something He had not revealed. When it was not "on the order" God refused to accept it. He rejected Cain for that very reason (Gen. 4). Nadab and Abihu offered "strange fire before the Lord, which He commanded them not" (Lev. 10:1-2). In effect these two priests sent the Lord something they thought He might like. After all, they liked it. "And there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord" (vs. 3). God rejected their "strange fire." They tried to charge God with something that He did not order and He refused it. After their death, God said to their father, Aaron, "I will be sanctified in them that come nigh Me, and before all the people I will be glorified" (vs. 3). It is a matter of fact that God is not sanctified in the life of a person who comes before Him with worship or work "which He

commanded them not!"

And yet, it has become all too common in our day for people to offer to God worship and work that He said nothing about. They like it so they think God will. Sometimes they even tell us that they do it because God didn't say not to! How unreasonable and unscriptural!

We need to understand that, "God... hath...spoken..." (Heb. 1:1). His revealed will has been written down and delivered "one time for all time" (Jude 3). It is complete and perfect (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The New Testament of Jesus Christ is God's all sufficient message to man. Some have charged that because God does not speak orally to us today, He either does not care or His is nonexistent. On the contrary, the fact that God does NOT miraculously intervene today shows that His written Word, the Bible, is infallible, all sufficient, complete and final! When the One with all authority has spoken, there is no need for Him to repeat it or to continually content with quibbles. God hath spoken! Man must act now, and we must act in response to that Word. We cannot respond to what God has not said. We cannot know what God wants by what He did not say. "The secret things belong to the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29). The "secret" things are the things God has not revealed. They belong to Him. The "revealed" things belong to us that we may do them. That makes sense doesn't it? We are just to do the "revealed" things. But, look at some of the religious practices of our day. Can you tell why they are being done? For example, why does your church:

- 1) Use instrumental music in worship?
- 2) Sprinkle babies?
- 3) Observe the Lord's Supper only once a

month?

- 4) Have special choirs?
- 5) Make donations to human institutions?
- 6) Have elders overseeing works besides the flock "among you?"
- 7) Have elders overseeing more than one local church?
- 8) Have special services to honor a preacher?
- 9) Provide suppers, parties, and entertainment?
- 10) Build gyms, kitchens, or "fellowship" (banquet) halls?

It may surprise you to know that with the possible exception of the first three, the above mentioned unscriptural practices are practices of many churches of Christ. And did you know that God didn't order any of it? "Why do they do it," you ask? For the most part, "Because God didn't say not to." (Remember why you refused those tires?)

Sometimes (in the same vein) digressive brethren will consider some unscriptural practice and ask, "What's wrong with it?" That's the wrong question. They need to be asking, "Where did God say it?" It is a fact that God will reject you and your "good works" if you offer what He did not order. Remember, it was a perfectly good mower you returned to WARD'S. You didn't send it back because it couldn't mow. You sent it back because you didn't order it! The Bible says, "He that... abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God" (2 John 9). If you do things without Bible authority, you go without God. Your "good works" may seem wonderful to you, but you will finally be judged by the very Word you ignored, and you will then be found among the "workers of iniquity" to be cast into the lake of fire (John 12:48; Matt. 7:21-23; Rev. 21:8). "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..." (Col. 3:17).

His Hand Held Me Up

by Bruce J. Dehut

I can remember as a small boy my dad teaching to ride a two wheeler. He would have me hop up on the seat and he would hold on to the frame of the bike and tell me to "start peddling." He would run along beside me as the wind whip into my face and my legs pumped for all they were worth. We would go through this routine a few times every day for several days. I distinctly recall one particular day when dad was propping me up as usual, and my legs were churning away and I was feeling really good about the whole experience. I shouted to my dad, "isn't this great dad, dad?" but no one responded. My dad had let go about thirty feet behind me, and I was on my own for the first time. As soon as I realized the situation, my confidence came crashing down, along with the bike and me. My dad quickly ran to my rescue, scooped me up and brushed off the dirt and gravel and helped me get back on that bike.

It wasn't until many years later, that I drew a parallel between this experience with my father and I, with that of Peter and Jesus: **Matthew 14:28-31 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of**

the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

In both circumstances there are many similarities:

1. A desire to accomplish something we had never done before.
2. We both had someone encouraging us.
3. A period of time when things seem to be going well.
4. Our confidence was fleeting, and was soon replaced by a deep sinking feeling.
5. We each had someone who loved us watching our every move and rescued us when we needed it.

Each of us experience times of waning faith and feel like our heavenly Father has deserted us. But be assured, He is standing right behind us, cheering us on when we walk in faith and picking us up when we fall on our faces.

Hebrews 13:5b "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Psalm 18:35b ...your right hand has held me up,...

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Sevice

Announcements: Arvil Young

Song Leader: Brandon Yates

Opening Prayer: Doug Smith

Lord's Table: Bill Milliner
Chuck Sharp
Andy Milliner
Robert Hood

Scripture Reading: David Shepherd

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Closing Prayer: Steve Smith

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: Arvil Young

Song Leader: Brandon Yates

Opening Prayer: Mark Smith

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Lord's Table: Bill Milliner

Closing Prayer: Jr. Stout