

No More, No Less

I. Introduction

A. *Get Bread Example*

1. Situation:

a) Mom says "Take this money to the store and buy some bread"

b) Son

(1) Takes the money to the store

(2) Buys bread

(a) AND milk

(b) AND candy

(c) AND baseball cards

(d) AND comic books

- c) Has he obeyed?
- 2. May say “You didn’t say not to buy all those other things”
- 3. But what if mom had repeatedly said “When I tell you to do something, I want you to do just that, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else”?
- 4. The boy would clearly be in the wrong
- 5. What about with God
- B. God has said, “No More, No Less” – We will...*
- 1. See these statements explicitly made by God
- 2. See God applying this standard to His instructions in His dealings with men

II. No More, No Less

A. OT

- 1. Dt 4:1-2 – don’t add or take away
- 2. Dt. 5:32 – don’t go to the right or left
- 3. Josh. 1:7 – right or left
- 4. Prov. 4:26-27 – right or left
- 5. Dt. 12:32 – don’t add or take away
- 6. Prov. 30:5-6 – don’t add
- 7. Balaam
 - a) Num. 22:18 – not less or more
 - b) Num. 24:13 – not good or bad of my own mind

B. NT

- 1. Rev. 22:18-19 – adding and subtracting cursed
- 2. 2 Jn 9 – abide in His teaching
- 3. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 – His word sufficient
- 4. Mt. 7:21 – restrained to His will
- 5. Gal. 3:15 –
 - a) even men’s covenants constrain –
 - b) cannot add or subtract –
 - c) principles of interpretation are the same for understanding the Bible as for any other task of understanding
- 6. Ps. 89:34 – God’s covenant the same
 - a) Old covenant designed to be temporary
 - b) But fully binding while in effect
- 7. Gal. 1:6-9 – Another gospel?
 - a) Poison illustration
 - b) Rat poison/cornmeal

8. 1 Cor. 4:6 – do not go beyond what is written
9. Mt 16:19 – it has been bound and loosed as directed by heaven
 - a) Cannot be altered (Jn 7:23; Jn 10:35)
 - b) “shall have been bound/loosed”
 - c) directed perfectly by the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:26; Jn 16:13)

C. Silence forbids

1. Do specific statements only include, or do they also exclude?
 - a) No more, no less means that if it is not mentioned, then it should not be done
 - b) Singing example
 - c) Whenever God specifies something, He EXCLUDES everything else related to that category
 - d) Gospel – everything else is excluded
2. What about things God hasn't mentioned?
 - a) Statements
 - (1) *Dt. 29:29 – Not our business*
 - (2) *Is. 55:8-9 – Couldn't guess if we tried*

III. Application

A. *Nabab & Abihu (Lev. 10:1)*

1. Fire

- a) Correct fire specified (Lev 16:12)
- b) God was silent about other fires
- c) But they were clearly forbidden

B. *Incense*

- a) Ex. 30:34-38 – correct incense specified
- b) Ex. 30:9 – All others EXCLUDED
- c) He didn't have list excluded incense
- d) He didn't have to say "no strange incense"

C. *Human Tradition Added (Mk. 7:1-13) Read from Bible*

- 1. Washing hands before eating as a religious practice
 - a) Not commanded
 - b) Not forbidden
 - c) Not mentioned!
- 2. Made worship vain!

D. *Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-14) Jordan mentioned – all others excluded*

E. *David eating the showbread*

- 1. Lev. 24:9 – mentions priest, does not mention others (are they allowed or forbidden?)
- 2. Mt. 12:4 – Jesus said it was unlawful

F. *David building the temple 2 Sam 7:1-7*

- 1. Does silence allow or forbid?
 - a) Nathan says, Silence allows an action if it seems good and right to a child of God
 - b) God says, "When did I ever ask for it?"
 - c) Silence forbids!

G. *Religious Holidays*

- 1. Rom. 14:5-6 – Personally significant days a matter of liberty and conscience
- 2. Gal. 4:10-11 – Unauthorized religious observances an addition – Easter and Christmas
- 3. Col. 2:14-16 – Former religious holidays removed

4. First day of the week is the day of religious observance
(Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1)

H. Instrumental Music? No

1. Sarah's story – Mid-December, driving home, she asked
“Why do people have Mary and Joseph and Jesus in their
yards?”

a) Some people believe that Jesus was born on
December 25th and that God wants them to celebrate His
birthday. Even though the Bible doesn't say anything
about that

b) Has God ever said not to add to or take away from His
word?

c) That's why we don't celebrate Jesus' birthday on
Christmas

d) The next thing I heard from the back seat. “Is that
why we don't use instruments?”

2. That is exactly right!

IV. Conclusion

A. *Priest from Judah*

1. Heb. 7:14 – Silence forbids
2. Aaron's family mentioned – all others excluded (Num. 3:5-13, 41-45, 18:1-7, 21-32)
3. The law must change for any other type of priest to be lawful (v. 12-13)
4. We cannot claim that we are lawful simply on the grounds that a practice is not forbidden

B. *The law did change*

1. Some things were loosed
 - a) Circumcision not a requirement
 - b) Sabbath day not observed
 - c) Feast days ended
2. Some things were bound
 - a) Instrumental music no longer authorized
 - b) Animal sacrifices no longer authorized
 - c) Burning of incense no longer authorized
3. The same law change that made Jesus high priest made these changes as well
 - a) Jesus is high priest
 - b) We are fellow priests with Him (Rev. 1:5)

C. *Invitation*