

# THE HARVESTERS



VOLUME VII

JANUARY 1989

NUMBER 6

## The Law of Silence: Some Reflections

By

Jackie M. Stearsman

Much is being written and articulated today relative to the principle of silence in Biblical interpretation. There is the proposal by some to develop a new hermeneutic whereby those practicing that which is unlawful (worshiping with mechanical instruments of music) might somehow or somehow be given legitimacy.

There are those who assert that this is nothing more than a few hard hearted legalist in the churches of Christ who promote division and oppose unity. Consider the following from a writer of the Christian Church:

"If 'the law of silence' is a valid one, where do we place it in our Bible? And, pray tell, how would we set it forth, since it is a silent law? To what portion of *God's Word* would this law of man be added? If such a law is not from God, and cannot truly be attributed to Scripture, how dare anyone presumptuously proclaim it, and thereby judge those whom God has received?" (Fred O. Blakely, Editor, *Banner of Truth*, June 1988, p. 77).



### MEN OBEY THE LAW OF SILENCE DAILY

Those who oppose the law of silence in religious matters recognize and use it on a daily basis. **They know that the law of silence is implied in the principle of authorization.**

(1)

We expect doctors to practice it. When a doctor writes a prescription and sends it to be filled we know that he is not authorizing all that he has not explicitly forbidden.

Would we appreciate doctors charging us for what they did not do? Would we consider them acting properly should they reply, "You did not tell me not to charge you for the surgery which I did not perform."

(2)

We demand that our pharmacist recognize the law of silence when he fills the prescription authorized by your doctor. Does he have the freedom to go beyond what is written? He, the doctor, and we the patient all know that he is authorized to include only what has been ordered and that he must exclude (by the law of silence) all that is

not authorized?  
(3)

Officials in law enforcement recognize the law of silence, and they are correct in expecting those of us in society to honor the law of silence. When the speed limit is posted at 65 mph this means that we are permitted to drive on that road up to that speed.

Society recognizes the law of silence and would not be so foolish as to quibble when stopped for exceeding the limit by 20 mph saying, "it does not say do not go 85!"

(4)

Those involved in business transactions recognize the law of silence. If you order an item by mail you have a right to expect only what you have ordered. Those you are doing business with may not, without your consent, alter your order.

When you go to McDonald's and place an order for a hamburger and fries, do they bring you everything they sell or do they honor the law of silence limiting themselves to what you authorized?

Who would do business with any merchant who filled your order as some practice religion--that whatever is not explicitly forbidden is

ordered.

Chaos would result in the business world as it does in the religious world should men ignore the law of silence.

THE BIBLE DEMANDS  
THAT WE OBEY  
THE LAW OF SILENCE

The Bible does not expect a special religious sense (perhaps nonsense would be the better concept) when it directs its readers in the ways of God.

(1)

Those who sought to bind **circumcision and the keeping of the Law of Moses** upon the early Christians were acting without authorization, were not following the law of silence.

The Apostles, Christ's authorized spokesmen, met with brethren and placed in writing for all to read that anyone acting without authority was wrong. "*Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment*" (Acts 15:24).

(2)

The **priesthood of Christ** is confirmed by the law of silence. From the Old Testament the inspired writer of Hebrews argued for the change of law and the change of the priesthood. The Messiah was to be from the tribe of Judah and was to be after the order of Melchizedek. Levites alone could be priest under the Law. Therefore, if Christ is to be priest the law must be changed. The law of silence was a strong point in the argument.

*"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the*

*altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchizedek there ariseth another priest, Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life" (Hebrews 7:12-16).*

(3)

The law of silence is used to prove the **preeminence of the Christ over angels**. He is shown to be above the angels, for God called him his son and did not so designate any of the angels. "*Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom" (Heb. 1:4-8).*

CONCLUSION

There is no need for a new hermeneutic. We only need to be as serious and honest in religion as we are in business, medicine, and the laws of our highway to resolve religious confusion.

**"They know that the law of silence is implied in the principle of authorization."**

Men who do not practice the principle of authorization and honor the law of silence, do so not because it cannot be

understood or implicated.

If we took liberty with the words of the editor cited above, going beyond what he has explicitly stated or implied, treat his words as he treats the Bible, we have no doubt that he would need no special education in discovering the law of silence. No, daily, rational people demand of themselves as well as others that all recognize and apply this principle.

When the principle of silence is not honored it indicates that the problem is much greater. Only good and honest hearts may be expected to do what is authorized, whether it be in medicine, business, law enforcement, and yes, also in religion "*But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15).*

December 13, 1988

Dear Bro. Carr,



I really enjoyed being in your congregation yesterday. It is an inspiration to see these young men preparing to preach the Gospel. I was impressed with their improvement.

Bro. Carr, you are to be commended for your years of devotion to the teaching and training of those students.

**The Harvesters**  
Published Monthly by the Florida School of Preaching  
1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, Florida 33803  
(813) 683-4043

Editor:	Associate Editor:
Jackie M. Stearsman	Clifford Newell, Jr.
Executive Board of Directors	
B. C. Carr, President	George K. French
Paul Thornhill, Vice President	Glenn Lee
J. H. Blackman, Jr., Secretary	Wallace Maxwell
E. Robert McAnally, Treasurer	James Medlin
Fred Baker	Gordon Methvin
Maurice Davis	Dale Spung
Kenneth W. Franklin	Gene Stilwell

TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

Best wishes always.

Dorothy Bise

November 14, 1988



Dear Brethren:

*As I work irregularly, it is not easy to send money every month, so am sending more than usual. I only wish I could send the same amount each month.*

*Thank God for excellent schools, such as at Lakeland, that teach and train young men the truth and nothing but the truth.*

*The grace of our Lord be with you always.*

*Sincerely,*

*Thelma M. Albritton*

### SPRING SEMESTER SCHEDULE

#### MONDAY

8:30-12:00

Preparation and  
Delivery of Sermons

1:00-4:30

Denominational Dogmas

#### TUESDAY

8:30-12:00

English Grammar  
Greek Grammar

1:00-4:30

Acts and Music

7:00-9:30

General Epistles

#### WEDNESDAY

8:30-12:00

Major Prophets

1:00-4:30

Church History-Restoration

#### THURSDAY

8:30-12:00

Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

1:00-4:30

Sermon Outlines

7:00-9:30

Educational Program  
Of the Church

#### FRIDAY

8:30-12:00

Marriage & The Family

1:00-4:30

The New Testament Church

#### NOTE:

Spring semester begins January 23, 1989. You may register at the school office located at 1807 South Florida Avenue. Cost for attending is \$5.00 plus textbooks. Should you have any questions, please call (813) 683-4043.

### JANUARY GRADUATES

All are happy to see students meet their requirements and graduate.

We are encouraged by the potential for service to the cause of the Lord in the two men graduating. Both have been very diligent students and we feel they will carry this same devotion into preaching.



**Robert Clay Lupo**

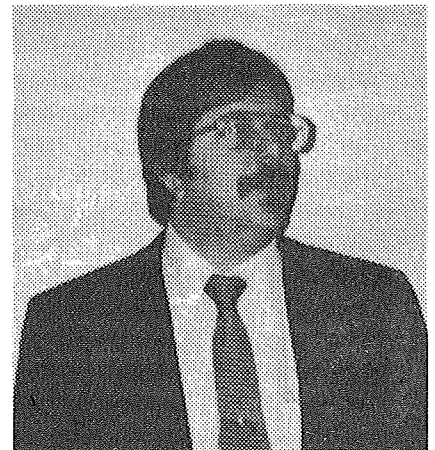
Robert was born, January 24, 1964, in West Palm Beach, Florida. He graduated from Lake Worth High School in 1982. He also attended Palm Beach Junior College.

Robert grew up attending church at Lake Worth. He began preaching at the age of 14 due the encouragement of Charles Cochran.

Robert married Dolores Jean Scotten. They met in high school and Robert baptized Dolores and together they helped to convert six individuals while in school. Following high school they

married, March 26, 1983. They have four children, Victoria Ann, Sara Elizabeth, Jennifer Jean, and Cecilia Marie.

At the present time the Lupos are working with the Central Church of Christ in Haines City. Robert is associate preacher, leading singing, teaching classes, and doing some preaching. They are making a decision currently for their future plans in full time preaching.



**Stephen Rosenzweig**

Stephen was born March 25, 1948, in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from Martin VanBuren High School in June, 1965. He received a B.S. in Biology from Johnson State College, Vermont. Stephen is a Jew and resided in Israel 1970 and 1971. While there he studied Hebrew and worked on a communal farm.

Stephen married Karen Squillante, July 26, 1981. They have one daughter, Kristen Marie, born December 14, 1987 and are expecting their second child at this writing (December 1988).

Following graduation the Rosenzweig's will begin full-time work with the Bushnell where he is presently preaching.

You may have remembered Stephen's article in the *Harvesters* which told of his conversion. The same article appeared in *Words of Truth*.

# FOURTEENTH ANNUAL LECTURESHIP

THEME - "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

## Monday - January 16

- 9:00 "Attacks Upon The Home"  
Winford Claiborne - Henderson, Tennessee
- 9:45 "Preaching For Our Times"  
V. P. Black - Mobile, Alabama
- 10:45 "Tolerating Error"  
Gene Stilwell - Sarasota, Florida
- 11:30- Lunch
- 1:30 "Sin Of Gambling"  
Wilford Heflin - Tampa, Florida
- 2:30 "Personal Godliness In Each Christian"  
Willis Pack - Lake Placid, Florida
- 3:30 - Open Forum-  
J. Noel Merideth - Lawrenceburg, Tennessee
- 4:30 - Break
- 7:00 "Keeping The Church Saved"  
Robert Williams - Lakeland, Florida
- 7:45 "Is There A Bible For Our Time"  
Robert Taylor, Jr. - Ripley, Tennessee

## Tuesday - January 17

- 9:00 "Attacks Upon The Home"  
Winford Claiborne - Henderson, Tennessee
- 9:45 "Preaching For Our Times"  
V. P. Black - Mobile, Alabama
- 10:45 "Mobilizing The Local Church For Evangelizing"  
Bob Spurlin - Orlando, Florida
- 11:30- Lunch
- 1:30 "The Importance Of Relevancy"  
Demar Elam - Madison, Alabama
- 2:30 "Is Everything We Do Worship?"  
Robert Taylor, Jr. - Ripley, Tennessee
- 3:30 - Open Forum-  
J. Noel Merideth - Lawrenceburg, Tennessee
- 4:30 - Break
- 7:00 "Does Might Make Right?"  
Adrian Harper - Jacksonville, Florida
- 7:45 "Silence Can Be Sinful"  
Winford Claiborne - Henderson, Tennessee

## Wednesday - January 18

- 9:00 "Attacks Upon The Home"  
Winford Claiborne - Henderson, Tennessee
- 9:45 "Preaching For Our Times"  
V. P. Black - Mobile, Alabama
- 10:45 "Elders And Church Discipline"  
Dale Spung - Sebring, Florida
- 11:30- Lunch
- 1:30 "Fulfilling The Great Commission"  
Bill Goldman - Staten Island, New York
- 2:30 "Dangers Within Church Growth Movement"  
Winfred Clark - Athens, Alabama
- 3:30 - Open Forum-  
J. Noel Merideth - Lawrenceburg, Tennessee
- 4:30 - Break
- 7:00 "Dare To Be Different"  
Charlie James - Winter Haven, Florida
- 7:45 "Errors Of The Boston Movement"  
Demar Elam - Madison, Alabama

## Thursday - January 19

- 9:00 "From House To House"  
Buford Carroll - Pinellas Park, Florida
- 9:45 "Elders Doing Their Work"  
Glann Lee - West Palm Beach, Florida
- 10:45 "Determining The Bounds Of Fellowship"  
William Cantrell - Huntsville, Alabama
- 11:30- Lunch
- 1:30 "Problems With Preachers Today"  
James Medlin - Jacksonville, Florida
- 2:30 "Trusting In The Providence Of God"  
George DeHoff - Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- 3:30 - Open Forum-  
J. Noel Merideth - Lawrenceburg, Tennessee
- 4:30 - Break
- 7:00 "Who Is On The Lord's Side?"  
Charles Orr - Orlando, Florida
- 7:45 "If I Had One More Sermon To Preach"  
Winfred Clark - Athens, Alabama

FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING  
1807 SOUTH FLORIDA AVENUE  
LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33803

Director: B. C. Carr  
Phone: (813) 683-4043

Address Correction Requested