

Through His  
silence, God  
hasn't given us  
authority to use  
instruments in  
the New  
Testament

- **DO NOT** presume that we have authority for such in the N.T.  
*cp. Chron 29:25*
- **DO NOT** presume God will eternally condemn those who use them.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** Let us “speak where the Bible speaks and to be silent where it is silent.”

## Straw Man Argument / Fallacy:

- A weak or imaginary opposition (such as an argument or adversary) set up only to be easily confused (Merriam-Webster)

## Red Herring Argument / Fallacy:

- Something that distracts attention from the real issue (Merriam-Webster)

# Bible Authority

1. Direct Command
2. Approved Example
3. Unavoidable Conclusion

# Red Herring Fallacy



How can we be better Bible Students?

# Red Herring Argument

Quote: “If God is silent, we can not step in and be God. The first time you are presumptuous on either conclusion. Then someone at some point will challenge you, to be consistent. Cause there’s going to be many, many things that we can discuss where God has revealed himself that we don’t necessarily practice. Like there are some churches that demand foot washing today, because it’s in the scriptures. Or that churches are practicing fasting.....So, when God is silent we need to be silent.”

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# Red Herring Argument

**James 1:21** “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

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# Red Herring Argument

**1 Peter 3:15** “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”

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9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.  
10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.  
11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Ma'ry his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.  
12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Her'od, they departed into their own country another way.

**The Flight to Egypt**

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Jo'seph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into E'gypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Her'od will seek the young child to destroy him.

14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into E'gypt.

15 And was there until the death of Her'od: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of E'gypt have I called my son.

16 Then Her'od, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth'le-hem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jer'e-my the prophet, saying,

18 In Ra'ma was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Ra'chel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

**The Return to Nazareth**

19 But when Her'od was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Jo'seph in E'gypt,

20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Is'ra-el: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Is'ra-el.

22 But when he heard that Ar-che-la-us did reign in Ju-dae'a in the room of his father Her'od, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in

a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Gal'i-lee.

23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Naz'a-reth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Naz'a-rene.

**John the Baptist's Ministry**

3 In those days came John the Bap'tist, preaching in the wilderness of Ju-dae'a,  
2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet E-sa'ias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then went out to him Je-ru'sa-lem, and all Ju-dae'a, and all the region round about Jor'dan,

6 And were baptized of him in Jor'dan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Phar'i-sees and Sad-du-cees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.

9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

**The Baptism of the Beloved Son**

13 Then cometh Je'sus from Gal'i-lee to Jor'dan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Je'sus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Je'sus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and,

lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:  
17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**The Three Temptations of Jesus**

4 Then was Je'sus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

7 Je'sus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

8 Again the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them.

9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

10 Then saith Je'sus unto him, Get thee hence, Sa'tan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

**The Preaching Ministry of Jesus**

12 Now when Je'sus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Gal'i-lee:

13 And leaving Naz'a-reth, he came and dwelt in Ca-per'na-um, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Za-bu'-lon and Neph'tha-lim:

14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by E-sa'ias the prophet, saying,

15 The land of Za-bu'-lon, and the land of Neph'tha-lim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jor'dan, Gal'i-lee of the Gen'tiles;

16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

17 From that time Je'sus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**The Calling of the First Four Disciples**

18 And Je'sus, walking by the sea of Gal'i-lee, saw two brethren, Si'mon called Peter, and An'drew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zeb'e-dee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zeb'e-dee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

**The Healing Ministry of Jesus**

23 And Je'sus went about all Gal'i-lee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

24 And his fame went throughout all Syr'i-a: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy, and he healed them.

25 And there followed him great multitudes of people from Gal'i-lee, and from De-cap'o-lis, and from Je-ru-sa-lem, and from Ju-dae'a, and from beyond Jor'dan.

**The Beatitudes**

5 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile up.



Upper Room - Red Herring Fallacy

# Foot Washing - A Bible View

**John 13:12-17:** "So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for [so] I am. 14 "If I then, [your] Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."



# Foot Washing - A Bible View

## Consistency matters

**John 5:8** “Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.””

**John 9:7** “And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.”

**Luke 24:49** “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.””

# Foot Washing - A Bible View

- **Act of Hospitality: 1 Timothy 5:10** “well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if **she** has diligently followed every good work.”
- **Act of Hospitality: Luke 7:44** “Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped [them] with the hair of her head”
- **Servant role: 1 Samuel 25:41** “Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.”

# Foot Washing - A Bible View

**John 13:6:** "Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"



# Foot Washing - A Bible View

**Luke 22:24-30:** "Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. 25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' 26 "But not so [among] you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. 27 "For who [is] greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? [Is] it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. 28 "But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. 29 "And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed [one] upon Me, 30 "that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

# Foot Washing - A Bible View

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16 "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."



# Foot Washing - A Bible View

**John 13:6-7:** "Then He came to Simon Peter. And [Peter] said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."



# Bible Authority

## Foot washing:

- God has never commanded us to wash other people feet
- This was never an approved example that we must follow in an assembly
- This idea is never presented as an unavoidable conclusion

(John 13)

# Upper Room - A Bible View

**Acts 20:7-9:** "7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where they[fn] were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead."



# Upper Room - A Bible View

## Consistency matters

**Temple: Acts 2:46** “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

**Synagogues: Acts 13:5** “And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as [their] assistant.”

**By the River: Acts 16:13** “And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met [there].”

**Homes: Romans 16:5** “Likewise [greet] the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.”

# Bible Authority

## Upper Room:

- God has never commanded us to meet in an upper room
- There were many examples on where Saints met
- This idea is never presented as an unavoidable conclusion

(John 13)

# Red Herring Fallacy



How can we be better Bible Students?