

## QUESTIONS ABOUT ASCERTAINING GOD'S WILL

Dear Mr. Waddey: Re: your article about the authority of Biblical silence, I have two questions...

1. You correctly cite that Zwingli sought to abolish everything not explicitly authorized by scripture. Based on this principle, he forbade audible singing in his church because the only singing scripture authorizes for the assembly is "in the heart" (Col. 3:16, Eph. 5:19.) Do you agree with Zwingli? If not, why not?

2. I Timothy 2:8 specifies that we are to "lift up holy hands" when we pray. I assume that you agree when the scriptures are specific, everything else is automatically excluded. Since this is the only prayer posture explicitly commanded, should we not be insisting that people must lift holy hands when they pray? If not, why not? Jackson

Dear Jackson: Yes, I am aware that Ulric Zwingle forbade vocal singing in his church. As much as I admire his work as a reformer, I do not subscribe to his practice. My reason for demurring is it seems evident to me that he misunderstood what Paul was saying in Ephesians 5:19. Paul writes, "...speaking one to another in psalms (speaking one to another is a verbal exercise)...singing (this too is verbal) and making melody in your hearts to the Lord..." This I do each time I sing praise unto God. In Colossians 3:16 Paul writes, "...teaching one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (that which I do silently in my heart teaches no one) singing (a vocal exercise) with grace in your hearts unto God." This verse says nothing about singing silently in your heart. Like all mortals Zwingle simply misunderstood the Scripture's teaching on singing.

As to lifting up holy hands in prayer I certainly do not object to a person doing that. The fact that Scripture mentions several different postures for prayer in addition to lifting up the hands, tells me that no one of them is bound on us as the only way to approach God. You no doubt are familiar with verses that speak of lifting up the eyes to heaven, kneeling, bowing, prostrating oneself on the ground and praying on ones bed. The point that they must be "holy hands" is a call for purity of life on the part of him who leads the church in prayer (Jas. 48). JHW

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