Respecting What God Does Not Say

Jesus says that many will say to Him at Judgment that they did many wonderful things in His name. However, He continues by stating, "And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (Matthew 7:21-23). The indication from this passage is that things were done by the good-hearted individuals without proper authority from Jesus given by God (Matthew 28:18), where Jesus declares, "All authority has be given to Me in heaven and on earth." More plainly submitted, many will not enter heaven because they did things as seemed right in their own mind.

The submissive heart should always ask, "Does the silence of the New Testament authorize anything." To answer this question, the submissive heart should seek an answer from God's word. Paul writes, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Sprit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Corinthians 2:9-11). Paul's words clearly tell us all we need to know about God and His will has been revealed. Thus, we cannot know the mind of God by His silence. Therefore, we must accept that the silence of God does not authorize anything.

When you combine Jesus' statement from Matthew and Paul's words to the Corinthians, why would we ever "think" it might be OK to do something just because God did not tell us "not to" in the New Testament? God clearly stated

what He wanted through the inspired writers (2 Timothy 3:16-17). At the same time, God declared what He did not want by not stating it.

A true Christian will live as instructed by God. "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17). This holds true for the church as well, as Paul is writing to the "faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse" (Colossians 1:2). As a Christian, and as a local church of Christ, we must respect and do as God has instructed us through His Son. Likewise, as a Christian and as a local church, we must respect what God has not instructed us to do through His Son. Why is it then that so "many" (Matthew 7:21-23) churches, thus Christians, involve themselves in so much that God did not authorize against?

Please take your New Testament, find the Scripture(s), and PLEASE correct me if I am wrong. Where does God authorize churches becoming part of an organization of any type? Where does God authorize musical instruments in worship? Where does God authorized choirs or individuals to sing for the church? Where does God authorize a fellowship hall or recreational/multi-use gym? Where does God authorize women preaching or praying in the assembly of the church? Where does God authorize the church collecting money electronically seven days a week?