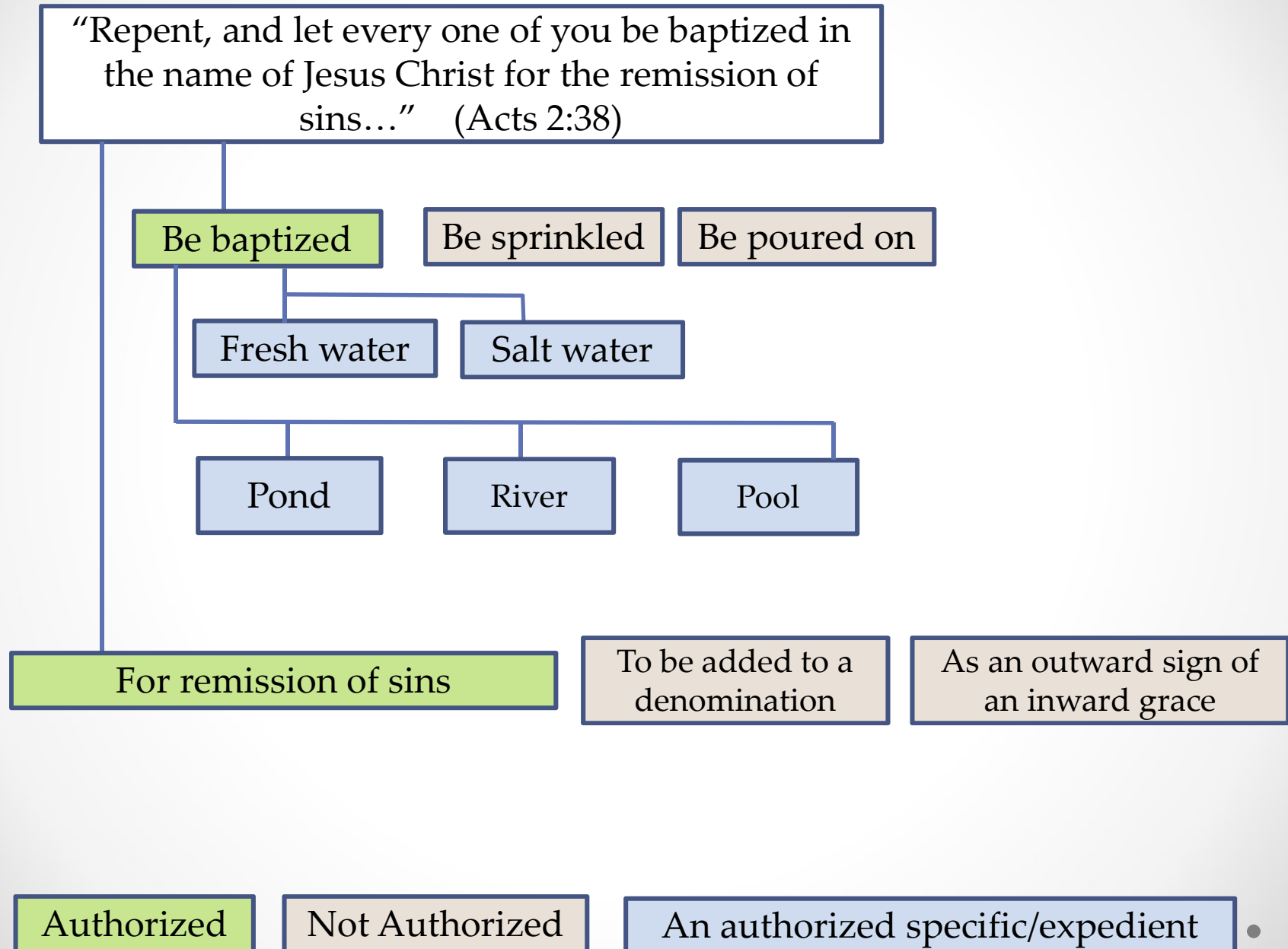


# Review

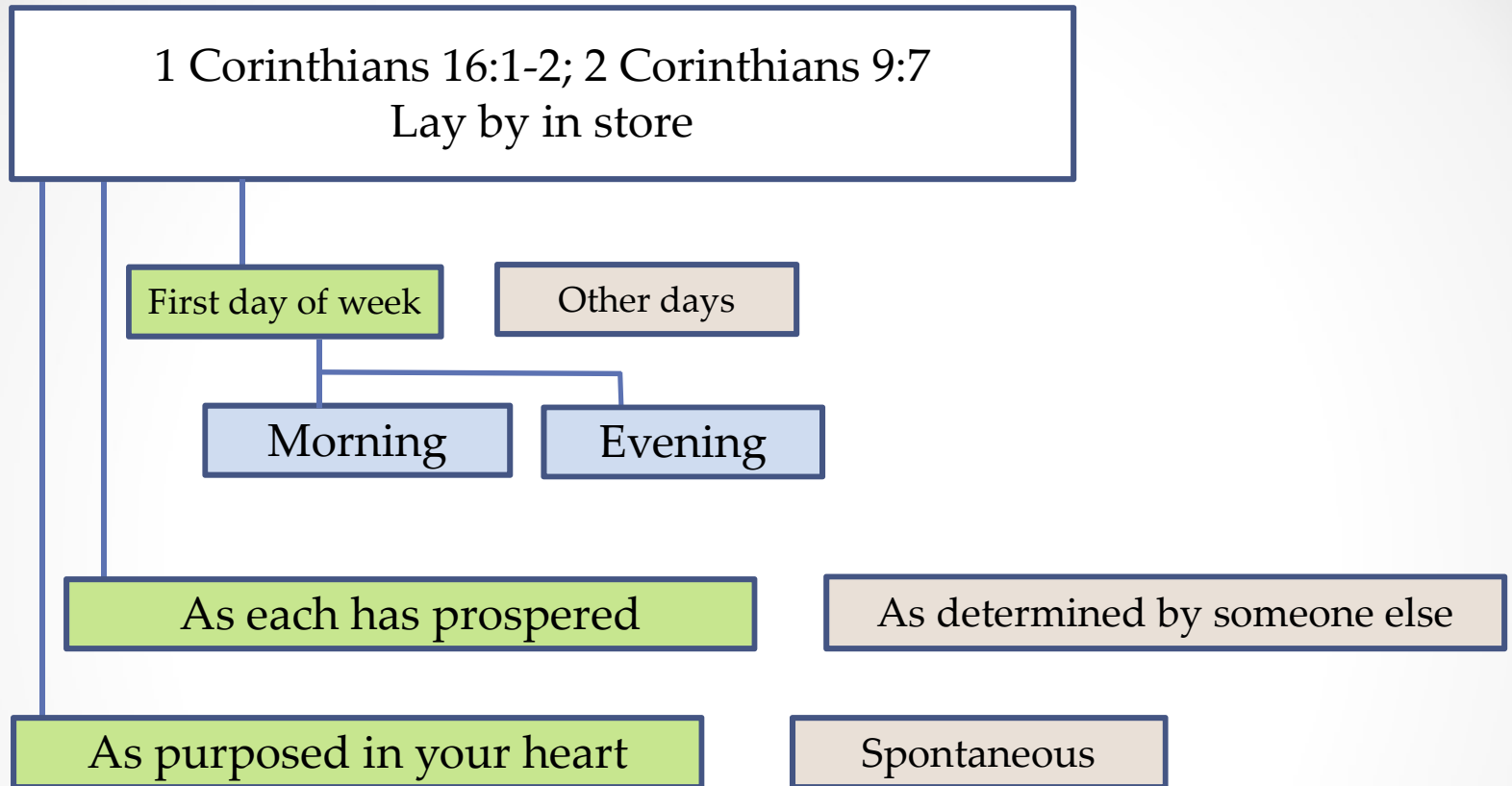
- God's silence does not AU\_\_\_\_\_ ZE. God's silence does not mean CON\_\_\_\_\_ T.
- Determining what is authorized involves HAR\_\_\_\_\_ NIZ\_\_\_\_\_ all the F\_\_\_\_\_.
- All the facts include COM\_\_\_\_\_ DS, STA\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_\_ TS,  
APP\_\_\_\_\_ DE\_\_\_\_\_ MP\_\_\_\_\_ S, and  
NEC\_\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_\_ CL\_\_\_\_\_ S

# Generic & Specific



Authorized Thing	The authorized thing is a specific in this general class	Therefore, these <b>not authorized</b> (other specifics of the general class)	The authorized thing is generic as to:	Therefore, these specifics/expedients <b>authorized</b>
<b>Free-will giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)</b>	Means for putting together a collection	Business, farm, solicit, car wash, etc.	Medium of funds	Cash, check, coins, etc.
			Collection method	Basket, pass, walk to, etc.
	Day of week	Days other than first day of the week	Time of day	Morning, evening, etc.

# Generic & Specific



- **Authorized**    **Not Authorized**    **An authorized specific/expedient** •

# Conclusion

- Bible instruction comes in both generic and specific ways
- Generic authorizes specifics
  - “When the pattern circumscribes a general class or action, the specifics in that general class or action are authorized.” (Steve Fontenot, lesson: Generic and Specific Authority)
- Specific does not authorize its generic
  - “However, when the pattern delineates a specific class or action, only that specific class or action is authorized – NOT the general class or action of which it is a member, nor other specifics of that general class.” (ibid.)

## Conclusion

- In determining what we are authorized to do, we should be as general as God has been in the Scriptures, and as specific as God has been in the Scriptures.
- Let us respect both the generic aspects and the specific aspects of the language of the Scriptures.

## Lesson 9 – Generic & Specific Authority



Authorized thing	The authorized thing is a specific of this general class	Therefore, these are <b>not authorized</b> (other specifics of the general class)	The authorized thing is generic as to:	Therefore, these specifics/expedients <b>authorized</b>
<u>Gopherwood</u> Genesis 6:14	Species of wood	Oak, pine, ebony, etc.	Size of wood, trees	Small, large, etc.
<b>Make ark</b> Genesis 6:14	Vessel	Row boat, sailboard, etc.	Tools	Hammers, nails, bailing wire, etc.
<b>Take for himself...a male lamb from the sheep or from the goats</b> Exodus 12:3-5	Species of animal	Ox, donkey, etc.	Color	White, black, etc.
	Sex	Female	Method to take	Rope, corner and grab, etc.
<b>Sing</b> Ephesians 5:19	Type of music	Instrument and sing, entirely instrumental, etc.	Harmony/unison/etc.	Soprano, alto, unison, etc.
			Speed	Slow, fast, etc.
			Method to sing the same thing	Memorized, song book, words projected overhead
<b>Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual songs</b> Ephesians 5:19	Types of songs	Folk songs, songs of patriotism	Exact subjects of songs	Godly living, praise, comfort, etc.
			Organization of songs	Multiple verses, no chorus, repeated phrases, etc.

# Roadmap

- ✓ What is authority, and how is the word used in the Scriptures?
- ✓ We need authority in our lives
- ✓ God is the ultimate authority
- ✓ What our source and standard of authority is not
- ✓ How is God's authority expressed to man
- ✓ Respecting God's silence
- ✓ Using the inductive method to determine the will of God
- ✓ Determining God's will through commands, statements, examples, and necessary conclusions
- ✓ Generic and Specific authority
  - Expediency
  - The church and the individual
  - The Scriptures give us a pattern
  - Examples of respect and disrespect of authority
  - Improper attitudes and assaults upon authority





## Lesson 10: Expediency

### ❑ Objective of this lesson:

- ❑ Men sometimes want to justify doing a thing religiously by saying it is an expedient. Let us understand the role of expediency in determining what *is* and what *is not* authorized.
  
- ❑ For example, some may misuse it this way:
  - ❑ “It is expedient to sprinkle this disabled person instead of baptize them”
  - ❑ “It is expedient to organize a missionary society in order to spread the gospel more effectively”

# Expedient as used in the New Testament

- Expediency is a Biblical concept
- The word expedient as an adjective and noun is found in these scriptures: John 11:50; 16:7; 18:14; 1 Corinthians 6:12; 7:35; 10:23, 33; 2 Corinthians 8:10; 12:1
- Vine: “to be an advantage, profitable, expedient” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, p.218)
- “characterized by suitability, practicality, and efficiency in achieving a particular end: fit, proper, or advantageous under the circumstances” (Webster’s Third New International Dictionary)
- Key thoughts: helpful or profitable in expediting or carrying out a command

# Expedients & Authority

- Something that is expedient must first be lawful
  - 1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23
- Something that is expedient must be within the realm of what God has authorized.
  - Israelite could not say it is expedient to take a female from the flock (Exodus 12:1-3), for God has specified a male.
- Something that is expedient should be something that edifies and does not tear down
  - 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

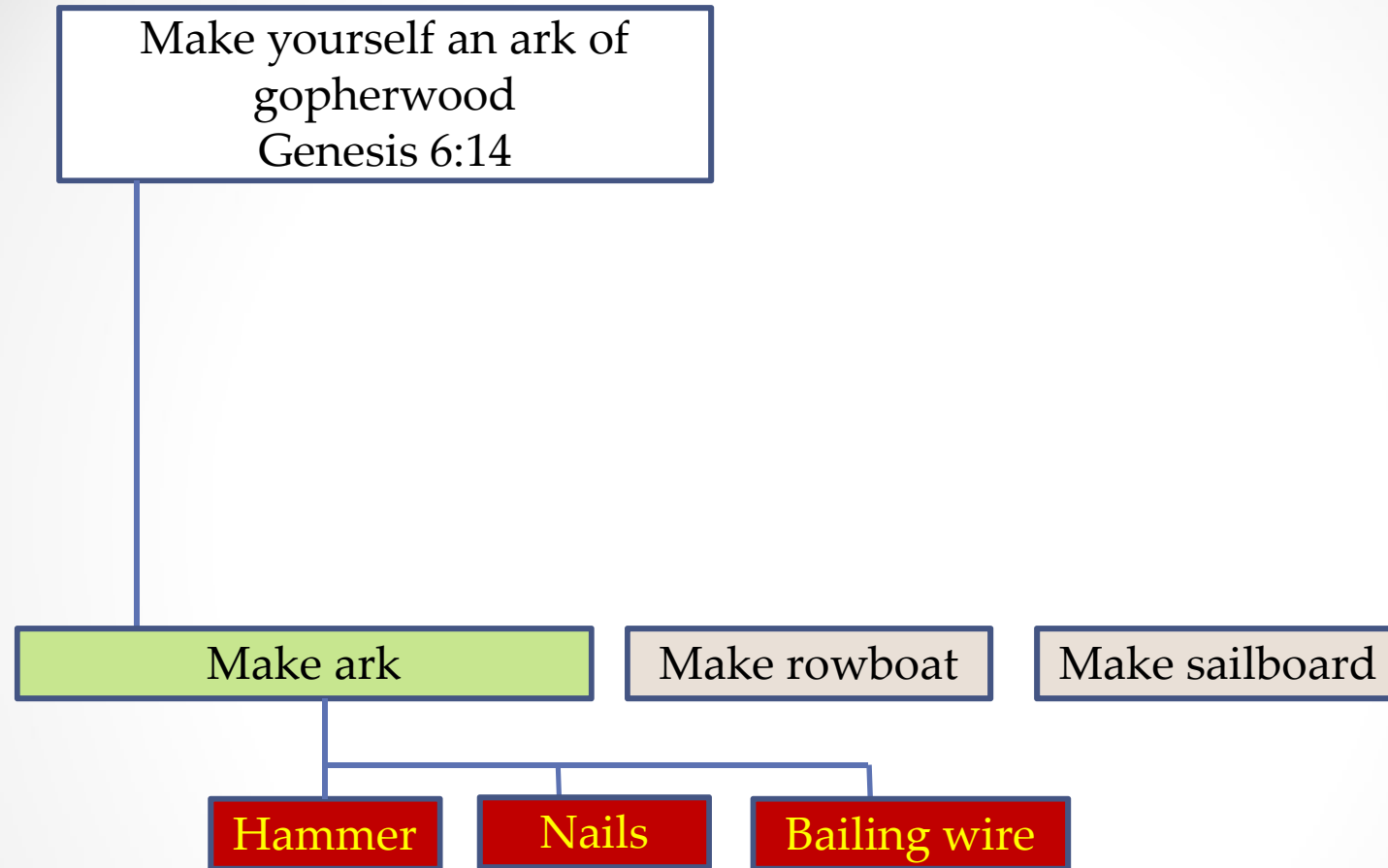
Something that is expedient should facilitate the accomplishment of God's will and be in harmony with His word  
– by His authority.

# Examples of an expedient

- Genesis 6:14
  - Tools
- Ephesians 5:19
  - Memorize, books, overhead displays, handouts

Authorized Thing	The authorized thing is a specific in this general class	Therefore, these <b>not authorized</b> (other specifics of the general class)	The authorized thing is generic as to:	Therefore, these specifics/ <b>expedients authorized</b>
Make ark Genesis 6:14	Vessel	Row boat, sail boat, etc.	Tools	Hammer, nails, bailing wire, etc.

# Generic & Specific, Expedients



- **Authorized**    **Not Authorized**    **An authorized specific/expedient** •

Authorized Thing	The authorized thing is a specific in this general class	Therefore, these <b>not authorized</b> (other specifics of the general class)	The authorized thing is generic as to:	Therefore, these specifics/ <b>expedients authorized</b>
<b>Singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16)</b>	Music	Entirely instrumental, sing + instrument, etc.	Method to sing the same thing	Memorized, printed songs, songs projected overhead
	Types of songs	Patriotic, folk, etc.	Which psalms, hymns, spiritual songs	How Great Thou Art; Psalm 19; Heavenly Sunlight

# Generic & Specific, Expedients

“Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs...singing & making melody in your hearts to the Lord”  
Ephesians 5:19

Sing

Play

Sing & Play

Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs

Folk songs

Songs of patriotism

How Great  
Thou Art

Psalm 19

Heavenly  
Sunlight

Memorized

Printed

Projected

Authorized

Not Authorized

An authorized specific/expedient



# Ephesians 5:19

- Method to sing the same thing
  - Memorize, books, overhead displays, handouts
  - These are all specifics authorized by the command to sing, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
  - But is memorizing the songs **expedient** if not all can memorize the song?
    - Memorizing is authorized, but it would not be expedient if all cannot memorize the song.
    - We are operating in a realm of choice regarding the method to sing the same thing
      - We must consider the principle of expediency to determine the most advantageous method

# Not an Expedient:

- Use of instruments in worship to God
  - “We will sing and play an instrument of music. The instrument *helps* with and is profitable to our singing.”
  - What’s the problem?
  - The New Testament command to sing is specific as to type of music. Instrumental music is another type of music. It is a different specific within the general class of music and is thus not authorized – it is not lawful. In order for a thing to be an expedient, it must first be lawful.

# Not an Expedient:

- Use of the church's funds to care for non-saints:
  - “Using the church's funds to help needy non-saints will expedite – be advantageous to – our being able to teach them the gospel”
  - What's the problem?
  - The New Testament teaching of the church helping the needy is specific to needy saints. The needy of the world are a different specific within the general class of people. God gave the specific – needy saints. The needy of the world are a different specific and are thus not authorized, not lawful. To be an expedient, a thing must first be lawful.