

Instrumental Music In Worship

I. Is it proper to use mechanical instruments of music in our worship to God? No!

II. The issue is NOT:

- A. Whether or not we enjoy instrumental music.
- B. Whether or not the church can afford a piano.
- C. Whether or not we are accustomed to instrumental music.
- D. Whether or not we prefer *a cappella* music.

III. The issue IS Bible authority. If mechanical instruments are not authorized in the law of Christ, then we must abstain from them in our worship to God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 4:11). As we will see, the New Testament does not authorize the use of instrumental music in worship.

IV. We are authorized to sing praises to God. Notice the following verses:

- A. Romans 15:9... “For this cause I will confess thee...and *sing unto Thy name.*”
- B. Ephesians 5:19... “*Singing* and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”
- C. Colossians 3:16... “*Singing* with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
- D. Hebrews 2:12... “In the midst of the church will I *sing praise unto thee.*”
- E. James 5:13... “Is any merry? *Let him sing psalms.*”

V. Because worship must be in spirit **and in truth** (Jn. 4:24), we must worship in a way that God has prescribed. If there is New Testament authority for instrumental music in worship, then we can use them, but if not, then to use them would be sinful. *Keep in mind that John 4:24 applies to individual worship as well as congregational worship.*

- A. To transgress the law of Christ is to lose fellowship with God (2 Jn. 9).
- B. To speak where God has not spoken equates disobedience (Lev. 10:1-2).

VI. Arguments used to justify instrumental music in worship:

- A. David used them in the Old Testament.
 - 1. Yes, but he was commanded to (2 Chr. 29:25). *We are not!*
 - 2. He also burned incense, offered animal sacrifices, etc.
- B. There isn't a “thou shalt not.”
 - 1. As seen above, we must seek permission, not prohibition.
 - 2. We must ask the question- is there book, chapter and verse for this action?
- C. How can something so beautiful be wrong?
 - 1. Right and wrong is determined by God, not our feelings (Is. 55:8-9).
 - 2. Something can feel right but be wrong (Pr. 16:25; Mt. 7:21-23).
- D. God wants us to use our talents.
 - 1. It is good to be talented in a given area, but that doesn't equal worship.
 - 2. What about other talents? Sports? Bow hunting? Video games? *Belching?*
- E. There are instruments in heaven.
 - 1. The language of Revelation is symbolic (1:1). Heaven is a spiritual place.
 - 2. Furthermore, incense is also said to be burned in heaven (5:8).
- F. The word “psallo” in Ephesians 5:19 involves instruments.
 - 1. Where is the melody made? Not on a piano, but in the heart.
 - 2. The melody is in our heart, just as grace is in our heart (Col. 3:16).

VII. Instrumental music was not incorporated into church worship until the 7th century!