



# The Voice Of Truth

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### Instrumental Music in Worship Right or Wrong? (Conclusion)

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Generally, the world frowns on those who refuse to use mechanical instruments of music in their worship, but with those who truly follow Christ; it is a matter of principle and respect for God's authority. The guiding principle in churches of Christ is: "Speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent." A strict adherence to this basic principle is the reason for the omission of instrumental music in the worship of the churches of Christ. Let us examine some reasons why people use instruments of music in worship.

Some have asked, "Does not the Greek verb 'psallo' include playing?" If the original word from which we get the term "sing" implies and includes the playing of a mechanical instrument, then we cannot obey God's command to sing unless each of us in the assembly plays a musical instrument. Now who is willing to say that the playing of a mechanical instrument is included in the Greek word "psallo"? The Greek word translated "sing" (**Eph 5:19; Col. 3:16**) does indicate the "plucking" on an instrument, but the specific instrument is specified - it is the human "heart" (not a mechanical instrument) that is plucked. We are not authorized to worship God with machinery. It is a violation of the Lord's will to go beyond the things which are written (**1 Cor. 4:6**). Musical instruments in New Testament worship have not been written, cannot

be found. Therefore, those who use musical instruments in worship today violate the Lord's will.

Various religious leaders have written and spoken with great unanimity of thought on the music question. Listen to what they have to say:

1. **John Calvin**, founder of the Presbyterian faith: "Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, and the restoration of the shadows of the law. The Papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this, as well as many other things, from the Jews" - **John Calvin's Commentary, Thirty-third Psalm.**

2. **Adam Clarke**, the commentator among the Methodists: "Music as a science, I esteem and admire: but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the Author of Christianity." - **Clarke's Commentary, Vol. IV. p. 686.**

3. **John Wesley**, the founder of the Methodist faith, is quoted by Adam Clarke to have said: "I have no objection to instruments of music, in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen." - **Clarke's Commentary, Vol. IV., p. 686.**

4. **Martin Luther**, a distinguished reformer, "called the organ an ensign of Baal" - **McClintock & Strong's Encyclopedia, Music, Vol. VI., p. 762.**

5. **Charles H. Spurgeon**, Baptist preacher did not have musical instruments in worship.

The above religious leaders, not one of whom was a member of the church of Christ, have been quoted not for the purpose of proving instrumental music in the worship wrong - the fact that Christ left it out proves that - but to show that they have been rejected by many religious leaders of the world.

What is the "bottom line"? It is the fact that most people are going to have the instrument because they like it, they want it, and they are going to have it. If they liked tea mixed with lemon in which to baptize people, they would have that, even though the Lord commanded water (**John 3:3-5; Acts 8:36; 10:37-38**). What God specified means little when people want something else!

The scriptures teach us to sing. No scripture authorizes instrumental music in worship today; it cannot be found. Therefore, those who use musical instruments in the worship today violate the Lord's will. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (**Rom. 10:17**). Therefore, instrumental music in the worship is not an act of faith. Therefore, those who use instrumental music in worship are sinning!

### **Proverbs Especially For Children:**

1. "Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head And ornaments about your neck. " Proverbs 1:8-9
2. "He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding. " Proverbs 15:32
3. "He who robs his father or his mother And says, "It is not a transgression," Is the companion of a man who destroys. " Proverbs 28:24

4. "A wise son *accepts his* father's discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. " Proverbs 13:1
5. "A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible. " Proverbs 15:5
6. "Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. " Proverbs 23:22
7. "He who keeps the law is a discerning son, But he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father. " Proverbs 28:7
8. "There is a kind of *man* who curses his father And does not bless his mother. " Proverbs 30:11
9. "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them"; " Ecclesiastes 12:1
10. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. " Ephesians 6:1-4
11. "Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart. " Colossians 3:21
12. "but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. " 1 Timothy 5:4
13. ""If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. "They shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.' "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear *of it* and fear. " Deuteronomy 21:18-21
14. "The eye that mocks a father And scorns a mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it. " Proverbs 30:17
15. ""If *there is* anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his blood guiltiness is upon him. " Leviticus 20:9
16. ""He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. " Exodus 21:15