



The Voice Of Truth

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Instrumental Music in Worship Right or Wrong? (Part 2)

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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.

Many contend that mechanical instrumental music in worship is authorized upon the ground that the Bible does not say "Don't have it." Does that prove that it is acceptable to God? Look at this argument, all things which the Bible does not specifically say "Don't have" are things which may be used in Christian worship. Mechanical instrumental music in worship is a thing which it does not specifically say "Don't

have." Therefore, mechanical instrumental music is a thing which may be used in Christian worship. The Bible authorizes by what it says, "NOT" what it does not say (**1 Pet. 4:11**). In **Exodus 12:3** God specified a sheep or a goat for the Passover sacrifice. Since He was silent as to any other kind of animal, this automatically excluded the use of a pig or a chicken. An Israelite would have sinned by adding other animals in the sacrifice.

In **Mark 14:22-23** Jesus gave instructions about how to observe the Lord's Supper. Since He specified using bread and fruit of the vine, it would be a violation to use any other food other food in that memorial. Finally, since the New Testament in several passages (**Acts 16:25; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Jas. 5:13**) specifies singing in Christian worship, it would be a violation to offer any other kind of music (instrumental) than the use of spiritual songs.

Christians are not governed by the idea that we can do anything and everything in matters of religion which the Bible does not specifically condemn. Rather, we are governed by the divine principle that we can do only that which is authorized by the Bible. Paul declares, "(For we walk by faith, not by sight" (**2 Cor. 5:7**). "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (**Rom. 10:17**).

While it is true that the Law was nailed to the cross (**Col. 2:14**), some hold that this did not affect the Psalms; the Psalms were not nailed to the cross. Look at this argument, all things which the Psalms authorized are things which may be employed in Christian worship. Can we practice the dance in Christian worship because it was authorized by **Psalms 150**? Can we offer animal sacrifices in Christian worship (**Psalms 66:13**)? The truth of the matter is the word "Law" refers to the whole Old Testament scriptures, including the Psalms. Please notice these verses:

"Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? (**John 10:34**). "I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High" (**Psalms 82:6**). "But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause" (**John 15:25**). "Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause" (**Psalms 35:19**). You see the truth is, the word "Law" refers to the Old Testament which was nailed to the cross (**Col. 2:14**).

The scriptures teach us to sing (**Matt. 26:30; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Jas. 5:13**). Woe unto the man who changes it! No scripture authorizes instrumental music in worship today; it cannot be found. "And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written" (**1 Cor. 4:6**). (Conclusion of this article will be in next week's bulletin)

AN OPEN LETTER TO MY CIGARETTE

YOU ARE CLOSER TO ME THAN ANY LIVING CREATURE, REPOSING IN MY POCKET NEAR MY HEART. WITH MY LIPS I CARESS YOU MORE THAN I DO MY FAMILY. WHEN I WAKE, MY THOUGHTS TURN TO YOU AND REMAIN ON YOU ALL DAY. I WORSHIP AT YOUR SHRINE WITH BURNT OFFERINGS CONSTANTLY. I CALL UPON YOU FOR HELP MORE THAN MY CREATOR. I PAY MORE FOR YOU THAN I GIVE THE CHURCH AND CHARITIES COMBINED. I RISK MY LIFE FOR YOU. BY SMOKING, I TAKE ONE CHANCE IN TEN OF HAVING LUNG CANCER AND TWICE AS MANY CHANCES OF DEATH FROM HEART ATTACK. I TAKE NO SUCH RISK FOR MY RELIGION. I BEAR IN MY BODY MARKS OF MY DEVOTION TO YOU, THE COLOR OF MY FINGERTIPS, MY TEETH AND MY SKIN, THE ODOR OF MY BREATH AND THE SMELL OF MY BODY. I DO NOT SMOKE, BUT SUCK ONE END OF THE CIGARETTE WHILE YOU SMOKE ON THE OTHER END. "I AM THE SUCKER."