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productive of much evil. 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 I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the Author of Christianity." (Adam Clarke's

Commentary, Vol. 4).

The ways of God and man are not the same (Isa. 55:8-9). Those who "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4:11) will be content to sing as God has directed.

Credit: www.padfield.com ♦

### Are You Heaven Bound?

By David J. Riggs

It matters not what else you do in life, if you miss heaven you have been a complete failure. You might gather about you great riches and fame and leave thousands of friends to mourn your departing, but if you are not ready for heaven you have been a miserable failure. On the other hand, you may die in a charity home for the poor and be buried in a potter's field without a single friend to mourn, but if you receive heaven, your life has been a marvelous success.

You can't afford to miss heaven for if you miss it, you miss all. It is the place of eternal rest (Heb. 4:9-11) where pain, sickness, and death will not be known (Rev. 21:4). It is an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that does not fade away (1 Pet. 1:4). It is that city built by the living God (Heb. 11:10).

to the will of God (Matt. 7:21). Let His Word guide you (2 Tim. 3:15) and let no one beguile you or your reward (Col. 2:18). Overcome temptations (James 1:12) and suffer for His cause with rejoicing (Matt. 5:11-12). If you do these things, heaven will be yours someday for the God of heaven who cannot lie has promised it.

I quote a few words from some of our songs: "I am going to a city where the streets with gold are laid, where the tree of life is blooming, and the roses never fade. Here they bloom but for a season, soon their beauty is decayed; I am going to a city where the roses never fade." "I am bound for the promised land, promised land, I am bound for the promised land; O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land." "When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun; we've now less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

Credit: http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs ♦

You don't have to miss heaven. Humbly submit yourself

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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#### How to Contact Us

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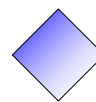


#### Schedule of Assembly

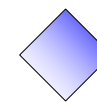
Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com



# The Voice of Truth



October 23, 2011

### God's People By Jimmy Pettigrew

Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. Although these exact words are not found in the scriptures, the thought of this is surely taught. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). And Isaiah wrote, "Even every one that is called by my name: For I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him" (Isaiah 43:7).

When a person lives as the Lord wants him to live, he is living for Christ (Philippians 1:21). A life that is supremely devoted to the service of Christ, consecrated to Christ, and used for the advancement of the cause of Christ, this is a life of a child of God. In the book of Titus, Paul tells us things concerning God's people.

1. **God's people are purchased people.** Our Christ "gave himself for us" (Titus 2:14). We are bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The Lord's blood shed on Calvary was the purchase price paid for the church (Acts 20:28). Therefore, God's people are to do all things to the glory of God!
2. **God's people are pure people (Titus 2:12, 14).** They must be pure in mind (Matthew 5:8); pure in speech (Proverbs 4:23); pure in doctrine (2 John 9); pure in worship (John 4:24).
3. **God's people are zealous of good works (Titus 2:14).** The Lord wants His people to be doing the works of God (Titus 3:1, 8, 14). We must zealously and constantly work for the salvation of men everywhere (Galatians 6:10). God expects us to be doers of the word and not hearers only (James 1:23-25). Let us "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed" (John 6:27).

We are God's people. Let us live in full understanding of this blessing. ♦

### What Would You Ask Him? By Jimmy Pettigrew

If you could have the complete fulfillment of one desire, hope, or longing, what would it be? Would you ask for happiness? Would you ask for a better job? Would you ask for material substance? Would you ask for physical health? Such a question opens so wide a field for thought that the imagination is staggered.

Has any person of history grappled with this question? Yes! David, the "man after God's own heart," not only grappled with it but also dared to make reply. He said: "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple," (Psalms 27:4). David's desiring "one thing" of the Lord shows he was not a man divided aims or allegiance. David longed to ascribe praise and honor and glory unto God. He loved to go to the place of public worship and praise his God. He loved to worship God. How needed this attribute is today!

Every child of God on earth today should make David's goal the end and aim of his/her life. But, sadly they don't! Too many professed Christians are spiritually dead. They are too religious to commit themselves to the world and too worldly to commit themselves to the Lord. They are seeking to serve two masters, but Jesus said: "No man can serve two masters . . .," (Matthew 6:24). If a person loves the world, he becomes an enemy of God (James 4:4). So many lukewarm Christians are "halt", as did those of old, "between two opinions." (1 Kings 18:21).

The true servant of the master is characterized by absolute commitment. "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth," (John 17:17). "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly . . .," (1 Thessalonians 5:23). To sanctify is to set something apart for sacred or holy uses. The very meaning of the term "sanctification" is used to describe the follower of Christ. It is an absolute commitment, dedication, consecration to reverence the Lord in our

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heart. Since Christians have been set apart for God's purpose, they are to continue to live consecrated, holy, and pure lives before God and the world.

demonstrating actions that we are "set apart" for God's service?

Have you "given yourself to the Lord"? ♦

Do we live as God's sanctified people? Are we truly

## "Who Influences You?"

By Jarrod Jacobs

While the Bible spends much time reminding us that we will ultimately be judged based upon our own words and deeds (**II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:1-16; Matt. 25:31-46;** etc.), we are also reminded of the fact that man is created as a social being (**Gen. 2:18**). As such, we need interaction with others. Because this is true, God's word addresses the influence that others may have on us. If we are not careful, godly people can be influenced to do wicked things (**I Cor. 15:33**). Therefore, we need to listen to the words of warning from God concerning who we allow to influence us while on earth. The Lord says ...

"*Do not be deceived: 'Bad company ruins good morals'* " (**I Cor. 15:33**).

"*Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare*" (**Prov. 22:24-25**).

"*My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent*" (**Prov. 1:10**).

"*Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, 'I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.'*" (**II Cor. 6:14-17**). At times, this passage is cited as proof that a Christian cannot marry a non-Christian. While there is no question such is an unwise decision, this is not the purpose of this passage at all! Rather, it is a warning against becoming influenced by worldly people.

"*So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as*

*far as Sodom*" (**Gen. 13:11-12**). Of course, we know what happened to Lot and his family by **Genesis 19**! His biography stands as a stern warning concerning what an evil influence can do to righteous and just people (**II Pet. 2:7**).

"Remember also that King Jereboam listened to his peers, allowing them to influence him (**I Kings 12:1-10**). As a result, he lost his kingdom, and the Jewish people never were the same!

In addition to these, we ought to be reminded of the fact that God not only warns against the bad influence some have, but He also talks about the benefits of good influence on our lives. For example ....

"*Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm*" (**Prov. 13:20**).

"Wisdom cries to man and says: *"Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight"* (**Prov. 9:6**).

Christians can be the good influence for one another: *"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works"* (**Heb. 10:24**).

"*The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death*" (**Prov. 13:14**). Are we listening to the spiritually wise people?

Are we allowing their influence to affect us? If not, why not?

"*You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven*" (**Matt. 5:13-16**).

These and other passages show us that one's influence can be a powerful thing. The question is will it be the good or evil influence that wins us? ♦

## Instrumental Music In Worship

By David Padfield

It would be impossible to preach a sermon on *"The Use Of Instrumental Music In The New Testament Church."* There is not one word in all the New Testament about Christians using mechanical instruments in worship to God.

Instrumental music was introduced into religious service by King David, nearly 450 years after the Israelites left Egypt (**1 Chron. 16**). The use of instrumental music in worship is mentioned about 36 times in the Old Testament, but not one single time in the New.

Some attempt to justify the use of instruments by saying, "David used it in the Old Testament." While this is true, we are under the authority of King Jesus not King David! The New Covenant demands not only a change of the priesthood, but also a change of the law (**Heb. 7:12**). The First Covenant has been taken out of the way and nailed to the cross (**Col. 2:14**).

Nine out of nine times when we find what the early Christians did as far as music was concerned, the Bible says they sang. Thus, we do have a Bible pattern for singing.

- "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives" (**Matt. 26:30**)

- "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God" (**Acts 16:25**)

- "I will confess thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name" (**Rom. 15:9**)

- "I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also" (**1 Cor. 14:15**)

- "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (**Eph. 5:19**)

- "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts..." (**Col. 3:16**)

- "In the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee" (**Heb. 2:12**)

- "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (**Heb. 13:15**)

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms" (**James 5:13**)

Not only do we have the Bible record of how the early church worshipped God in song, but secular history gives us additional information.

"Pope Vitalian is related to have first introduced organs into some churches of western Europe, about 670; but the earliest trustworthy account is that of the one sent as a present by the Greek emperor Constantine Copronymus to Pepin, king of the Franks, in 775." (*The American Cyclopaedia*, Vol. 12).

"The organ is said to have been first employed in the church during the time of Pope Vitalian I." [c. 666 a.d.] (*New International Encyclopedia*, Vol. 13, p. 446).

Even men who were responsible for the establishment of modern denominations urged their followers to reject the use of mechanical instruments in service to God.

**John Calvin** is invariably named with **Martin Luther** as the chief builders of Protestant Denominationalism. Calvin, architect of the Presbyterian church, said, "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 other shadows of the law. The papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this, as well as many other things, from the Jews. Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in that noise; but the simplicity which God recommends to us by the apostle is far more pleasing to Him." (*Calvin's Commentary on the 33rd Psalm*). Martin Luther made the simple statement that "The organ in the worship is the ensign of Baal."

**John Wesley**, founder of the Methodist church, said, "I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels provided they are neither heard nor seen." (*Adam Clarke's Commentary*, Vol. 4, p. 686).

**Adam Clarke** was born in Ireland about 1762. His commentaries on the Bible have been one of the best selling reference books for over a century. While discussing the use of mechanical instruments in worship, he said, "I am an old man, and an old minister; and I here declare that I never knew them productive of any good in the worship of God; and have had reason to believe that they were