

WHY NO INSTRUMENTS IN WORSHIP?

2-2-2025 AM

INTRO.:

- A. Read the text: Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.
- B. Regarding the text:

I. THE OLD TESTAMENT IS NOT OUR GUIDE TO WORSHIP.

- A. One of the least known teachings of the Bible involves the distinction between the covenants.

- 1. When we refer to “the covenants,” we are speaking of the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- 2. These two testaments combined compose what is known as “God’s Holy Word.”
- 3. The Law, the Old Covenant, was revealed to Moses at Mount Sinai. The Law of Christ, the New Covenant, was revealed to inspired men during the first century.
 - 1) Today the Law of Moses is no longer a binding covenant (Col. 2:14).
 - 2) Romans 7:1-4.

- B. Since we are no longer under the Old Testament, our authority must come from the New Testament.

- 1. Colossians 3:16-17.
- 2. Titus 2:1.
- 3. 1 Peter 4:1.

II. NOT ONE PASSAGE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. Question: “Where is one passage in the New Testament that authorizes instruments of music in worship?”

- 1. Answer: There is not one.
- 2. There are several passages that authorize singing.
 - 1) Colossians 3:16.
 - 2) Ephesians 5:19.
 - 3) 1 Corinthians 14:15.

- B. The command is to “sing.”

- 1. Definition: to utter words with musical modulations of the voice.
- 2. There are some things that are done with the voice that are not singing.
 - 1) Whistling is not singing; Humming is not singing.
 - 2) Imitating the sound of an instrument is not singing.
- 3. We do have a command to sing. We can produce book, chapter, and verse for this action. This is not true with regard to instrumental music in worship.

III. SOME FEEL THAT SILENCE AUTHORIZES.

- A. If an action is not condemned, it is authorized.

- 1. Meaning if the Bible doesn’t say don’t, you are authorized to do so.
- 2. They say the Bible doesn’t say do not use an instrument of music.
 - 1) YES, it does!
 - 2) No, there is not a verse to which I can turn that says: “Do not use instruments of music in worship.”
 - 3) However, when the Bible specifies how something is to be done, then everything else is prohibited.
 - 4) Examples:
 - a. Noah was commanded to build the ark of gopher wood (Genesis 6:14). God did not say, “Do not use pine, oak, etc.” Note Genesis 6:22.

- b. The Lord's Supper: To be observed on the first day of the week (**Acts 20:7**). Scripture does not say, "Do not observe the Lord's Supper on Monday, Tuesday, etc."
- c. **Luke 24:49**: Jesus instructed the apostles to "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem." He did not say, "Not Damascus, Not Nazareth, etc."

3. We must not assume authority by saying, "But I thought" or "But I like it."

B. Why is it that we understand those examples, but cannot reason the same way about the command to sing?

IV. SOME CONSIDERATIONS.

A. Acapella is the authorized way to worship in song.

- 1. The word means "without the instrument of music." Carrie Underwood was forced to perform a cappella during the inauguration ceremony.
- 2. **1 Corinthians 14:15**.

B. Church history does not record an instrument of music in the worship of the church for some 600 to 800 years.

C. There have been numerous men who were leaders in denominations who have opposed instrumental music.

- 1. Martin Luther founder of the Lutheran church (1483-1546): "The organ in the worship to God is an ensign of Baal."
- 2. John Calvin founder of the (1509-1564): "It is no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of tapers, or revival of other shadows of the law. The Roman Catholics borrowed it from the Jews."
- 3. John Wesley founder of the Methodist church: "I have no objection to the organ in our chapels provided it is neither seen nor heard."
- 4. Adam Clark a Methodist preacher (1762-1832): "I am an old man and an old minister, and I here declare that I have never known instrumental music to be productive of any good in the worship to God and have reason to believe that it has been 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 here register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of that infinite Spirit who requires his followers to worship Him in spirit and truth."
- 5. Charles Spurgeon a Baptist preacher (1834-1892): "I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery... Israel was at school and used childish things to help her learn; but in these days when Jesus gives us spiritual food, one can make melody without strings and pipes... they would hinder rather than help our praise."

V. CONCLUSION.

A. There are many who think the churches of Christ are strange because they do not use instruments of music in worship.

B. We are not seeking to be strange; we are seeking to be Scriptural.

- 1. Following God's Word explicitly is very important (**Matthew 28:20**).
- 2. Additions to God's Word are condemned (**Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19**).