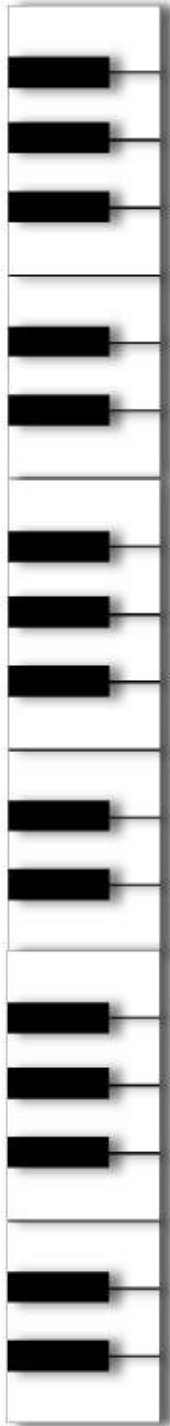


What Does the Bible Teach About Instrumental Music in Worship?

Thursday Indepth Bible Class of the
Trilacoochee church of Christ

10/22/20



What Does the Bible Teach About Instrumental Music in Worship?

Isa. 55:8-9 – “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”



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Lev. 10:1-3 – “Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. 3 And Moses said to Aaron, This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' So Aaron held his peace.”



What Does the Bible Teach About Instrumental Music in Worship?

2Sam. 6:3, 6-7 – “So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. 6 And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.”



Differentiate Between Old And New Testament Doctrine

Prophecy of Moses

Deut. 18:15 – “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear”

Acts 3:22 – “For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.’”



Differentiate Between Old And New Testament Doctrine

God's chosen spokesman

Heb. 1:1~2 – “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds”

Heaven's sanction

Matt. 17:5 – “While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”



Differentiate Between Old And New Testament Doctrine

The last of court of appeals in religious questions is
the Son of God

Matt. 28:18 – “And Jesus came and spoke to them,
saying, All authority has been given to Me in
heaven and on earth.”

Col. 3:17 – “And whatever you do in word or
deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father through Him.”



Attitudes Toward Christ's Authority

Matt. 8:9 – “For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.”

Matt. 21:23-27 – “Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority? 24 But Jesus answered and said to them, I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: 25 The baptism of John--where was it from? From heaven or from men? And they reasoned among themselves, saying, If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet. 27 So they answered Jesus and said, We do not know. And He said to them, Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”



Attitudes Toward Christ's Authority

Martin Luther ~ "I favor bringing into the church of God and having a part and parcel thereof, anything and everything not specifically forbidden and directly condemned."

Ulrich Zwingli ~ "My platform is that in the matter of worship to God and service to the Lord, we will accept nothing unless the Scriptures authorize it."



Attitudes Toward Christ's Authority

2Cor. 5:7 – “For we walk by faith, not by sight”

Rom. 10:17 – “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

1Cor. 4:6 – “that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written”



Accept And Apply The Authority Of The Bible

1 Peter 4:11 – “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

Restoration Plea: “Speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where it is silent.” (*Thomas Campbell, Search for the Ancient Order: Volume 1, p 47*).

Barton W. Stone: “The Bible alone should be my guide.”



Accept And Apply The Authority Of The Bible

Commands

Matt 28:19 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

Divinely approved examples

Phil. 3:17 – “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”

Divine implications from which we draw necessary conclusions

Acts 15:19 – “Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God”



Scriptural Forms Of Music In Worship

Matt. 26:30 – “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

Acts 16:25 – “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

Rom. 15:9 – “and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.”

1Cor. 14:15 – “What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.”



Scriptural Forms Of Music In Worship

Eph. 5:19 – “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”

Col. 3:16 – “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 to the Lord.”

James 5:13 – “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”

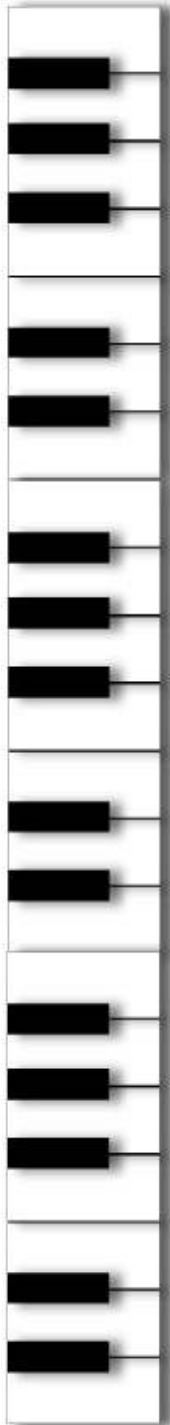


Primary Defense of Christian Churches and Progressive churches of Christ

In spite of what the Bible says to do, many are going to argue, “It doesn't say not to.”

Neither does it say not to sprinkle, recite a rosary, practice polygamy, or supplement the Lord's Supper with pizza and beer.

That which proves too much, proves nothing.



The Real Reasons For Use Of The Instrument

"Its aesthetic appeal enhances our worship."

"Without it, we won't draw as many people to our worship services."

"We want what most other churches have."



Reasons The Uninformed Often Give For Our Refusal To Use Mechanical Instruments In Worship To God

We don't like mechanical instruments in music.

We think vocal music is better than accompanied music.

Our objection is cultural (like the Amish to autos).

We cannot afford a piano.

We don't have anyone qualified to play.



The Real Reasons Why We Refuse To Use Mechanical Instruments In Worship To God

Jesus Christ did not teach the use of M.I. of music in worship ~ Matt. 28:20; John 14:26.

The Holy Spirit never authorized the use of M.I. of music in worship ~ 2Peter 1:3; 2Tim. 3:16-17; 2John 9

Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the apostles all taught us to sing.

Command ~ Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 13:15; James 5:13

Examples ~ Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1Cor. 14:15; Heb. 2:12



The Real Reasons Why We Refuse To Use Mechanical Instruments In Worship To God

To worship with the human doctrine based addition of instruments would make our worship vain and unacceptable to God

Matt. 15:8-9 ~ “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”



Denominational History Of The Introduction Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

First ascribed to pope Vitalian in 665 AD (Schaff).

Not in general use in Catholic churches until 14th century.

Denounced by most of the prominent denominational scholars.

Thomas Aquinas (Catholic, 13th century scholar)

“Our church does not use mechanical instruments that she may not seem to Judaize.”



Denominational History Of The Introduction Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

John Calvin (founder of Presbyterianism) “M.I. would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, lighting of lamps, or restorations of other shadows of the old law. The papists have foolishly borrowed this from the Jews. Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in that noise, but the simplicity which Cod recommends to us is far more pleasing to Him.”

John Girardeau (Presbyterian author) “It has been proved that the church, although lapsing more into defection from the truth had no instrumental music for 1200 years. The Calvinist Reformed Church has ejected it from its worship as an element of Popery. It is heresy to the sphere of worship.”



Denominational Attempts To Justify Use Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

“It was practiced under the law of Moses.”

“There are harps in heaven.”

“If it is permitted at home, why not in the church?”

“We must use our God-given talents to His glory.”

“We are not forbidden to use mechanical instruments of music in worship.”

“Psallo means to play an instrument.”

“The piano is just an aid to our worship, like songbooks or pitch pipes.”



Abuses Traceable To Use Of Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship

Violation of the command to sing by those who just listen to others play.

Increased tendency to squabble over virtuosity.

Second and third generation introducing more exotic instruments.

Encourages alterations in other parts of worship.



What Does the Bible Teach About Instrumental Music in Worship?

We are not being divisive in proclaiming the truth on this subject.

Kings 18:17-18 ~ “Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, ‘Is that you, O troubler of Israel?’ 18 And he answered, ‘I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals.’”



What Does the Bible Teach About Instrumental Music in Worship?

If we desire to please God with our worship, then let us worship God His way.

Gal. 1:10-12 ~ “For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. 11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”



Instrumental Music Is About Man Serving Himself Instead Of God

For the first 1400 years of Christianity, instruments of music in worship were seldom heard in the denominations of men. It has only become common in American churches for the past 150 years, about the same time in which the Bible began to be dismissed as the binding word of God for worship and Christian living.

When a denomination chooses to use mechanical instruments of music in worship over what God specified in His word, they have ceased to worship God and have begun worshiping themselves.



Instrumental Music Is About Man Serving Himself Instead Of God

The founders and champions of many mainstream denominations rejected the instrument in worship

Clement of Alexandria (190 AD)

John Chrysostom (398 AD) Catholic

Thomas Aquinas (1250 AD) Catholic

John Calvin (1560 AD) Presbyterian

Martin Luther (1540 AD) Lutheran

John Wesley (1790 AD) Methodist

Charles Spurgeon (1890 AD) Baptist

Adam Clarke (1830 AD) Methodist