

# Strange Things You Hear About the Church of Christ (#3 of 12)

## "You Don't Believe In Instruments of Music"

What Does the Bible Teach About Music?

**Text:** John 4:19-24

### **Introduction:**

1. Some questions of importance from our text...
  - (1) What aspects of worship does our Lord emphasize?
  - (2) Is this a divine suggestion or command?
  - (3) What is worship?
    - A. Honor, reverence, homage
    - B. 4 types of worship are found in the Scriptures:  
Vain Worship – Matthew 15:9  
Ignorant Worship – Acts 17:22,23  
Will worship – Colossians 2:20-23  
True worship – John 4:24
2. With these things in mind, we are ready to examine what the Bible teaches about music in worship.

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. Going to the Source**

1. The source is the New Testament – Colossians 2:14; Galatians 5:4; Colossians 3:17; Hebrews 10:9 (more on this tonite)
2. Once the standard is set, the facts about singing in the New Testament church are easy to ascertain. Singing is mentioned 9 times in regards to New Testament Christians:
  - (1) Matthew 26:30 – And when they had **sung** an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.
  - (2) Mark 14:26 – And when they had **sung** an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.
  - (3) Acts 16:25 – And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and **sang** praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.
  - (4) Romans 15:8-9 – Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: (9) And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and **sing** unto thy name.

- (5) 1 Corinthians 14:15 – What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will **sing** with the spirit, and I will **sing** with the understanding also.
  - (6) Ephesians 5:19 – Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
  - (7) Colossians 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.
  - (8) Hebrews 2:12 – Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I **sing** praise unto thee.
  - (9) James 5:13 – Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him **sing** psalms.
3. From the above we learn a couple of important things...
- (1) God said "sing" – Can you play "Simon says?"... Can you live "God says?"
  - (2) I believe in the use of instruments in worship. In fact, there must be an instrument – but the one God demands is not mechanical (Ephesians 5:19)
4. Not only can one look to the Bible record, but he can also look to history. When such is done it is clear that mechanical instruments were not used until the late 7<sup>th</sup> century (about 666), and caused many problems even after that. (See the paper in this series titled - "Quotes About Instruments of Music" for numerous quotes)

## **II. Another Consideration... Given The Imperative of our Text**

- 1. The price of failure is too high! (Cf. Leviticus 10:1; Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21-23; Galatians 1:6-9; Matthew 15:9)
- 2. If I am concerned with the imperative – if I am concerned with God's will – if I am concerned with my soul's salvation... what will I do?

### **Conclusion:**

- 1. Suppose one were to take a pencil and paper and draw a line down the center of a blank page and label the two columns: Commandments of God, and Commandments of Men. Now, with the Word of God as the guide, classify a dozen or so things which are practiced in religion today.

- (1) Preaching? Under the Commandments of God. How do we know? Because this is commanded in 2 Tim 4:2.
  - (2) Prayer? Taking the Lord's Supper? Baptism? Feeding the poor? Any Bible student can readily find book, chapter and verse for such practices, proving that they are commandments of God.
  - (3) What about counting beads in worship? That would have to go under commandments of men. It is unheard of in the New Testament.
  - (4) What about holy water or worshiping images? Just more commandments of men which contribute to vain worship.
  - (5) In all frankness, where must one place instruments of music? We have examined God's word and found no scripture authorizing man either by command, example, or inference to use instrumental music in Christian worship. It just isn't there. On our paper we would be obliged to place it under the heading of Commandments of Men.
2. Two important points as we close...
- (1) **It was not an oversight on the part of God that he left mechanical instrumental music out of Christian worship; he makes no mistakes. Why he left it out is none of my business; the fact is that he did.**
  - (2) **If one is concerned about having God's Word as the standard, the question of mechanical instruments is forever settled.**
3. In lessons to follow though, we will examine some of the objections set forth by those who seek to justify mechanical instruments of music in worship.