

Strange Things You Hear About the Church of Christ (#5 of 12)

"You Don't Believe In Instruments of Music"

Examining Objections

Text: John 4:23-24

Introduction:

1. Today we continue our study of the arguments which are often heard as people try to justify the use of mechanical instruments of music, in spite of the repeated commands from God to "sing."
2. We continue to encourage all to be noble in their approach to this, and all subjects (Acts 17:11).

Discussion:

I. There are Mechanical Instruments Used In Heaven (Revelation 14:2; 15:2; 18:22)

1. Those who make this argument fail to discern important matters in their study of God's Word...
 - (1) They fail to acknowledge the very nature of the book of Revelation (1:1-2). The proof texts to which they appeal are each clearly figurative passages - but even if we conceded that actual mechanical instruments were used we still have not addressed what God has authorized in worship on this earth.
2. They fail to be consistent in their handling of this book...
 - (1) Are we ready to use everything in worship that is mentioned in heaven? (incense - Revelation 5:8; sickles - 14:4; golden girdles - 15:6; golden reed - 21:15)
 - (2) Are we ready to use heaven as the pattern for this life? (For example, remember that no marriage is there - Matthew 22:30)

II. "God Didn't Say Not To!"

1. This is the so-called "argument from silence" and demonstrates a woeful lack of knowledge as to how the Bible authorizes.
 - (1) Command - ie Mark 16:16 (baptism in order to be saved)
 - (2) Example - Acts 20:7 (Lord's supper on the 1st day of the week)
 - (3) Inference - Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38 (Inference - belief and repentance are essential before baptism, therefore infants cannot be subjects for Bible baptism)
2. One could look to several passages that illustrate the folly of this:
 - (1) Noah's building of the ark - Genesis 6:14-16, 22
 - (2) Nadab and Abihu's "strange fire" - Leviticus 10:1-2
 - (3) Two examples of God arguing from silence in Hebrews
 - A. The angel's inferiority to Christ - Hebrews 1:4-5
 - B. Christ's inability to be a priest on earth - Hebrews 7:13-14

Conclusion:

1. The Bible truth is ... God said sing.
2. Do we care what God said? (Colossians 3:17; John 14:15; Hebrews 5:9). Tonite we will conclude the portion of the series dealing with God's teaching regarding music in worship.

Singing is mentioned 9 times in regards to New Testament Christians:

- (4) Matthew 26:30 – And when they had **sung** an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.
- (5) Mark 14:26 – And when they had **sung** an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.
- (6) Acts 16:25 – And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and **sang** praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) Ephesians 5:19 – Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
- (10) 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.
- (11) Hebrews 2:12 – Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I **sing** praise unto thee.
- (12) James 5:13 – Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him **sing** psalms.