

MUSIC IN WORSHIP?

It seems that most so called churches are going after musical instruments in their worship service. The big question is, will God accept their worship or are they worshiping in vain?

God tells us the music He wants. Ephesians 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Colossians 3:16 "Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord."

We cannot find anywhere in the New Testament where God has authorized any (mechanical) instruments in worship to Him. We can find where He tells us to pour out our heart to Him (fruit of our lips) singing.

We cannot add anything to God's word nor can we take anything away, to do so would be SIN (Revelation 22:18).

II John 9th verse "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God."

Romans 15:9 "Sing unto thy name."

I Corinthians 14:15 "I will sing with the spirit, I will sing with the understanding."

God told Moses in Exodus 23:2 "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil."

God has instructed us to sing, and everyone agrees that God will accept singing without the use of mechanical instruments. Then WHY would anyone want to add something that God has not authorized and contaminate their worship to God?

We must understand that, all that is not of faith is sin and cannot find the use of musical instruments in my book of faith (Bible).

Someone said, David used mechanical instruments in worship. We don't want to do like David. David killed a man and took his wife. We surely don't want to do that.

Just follow the instructions of the Bible no more, no less and you will be obeying your Heavenly father.

----*Jimmy Ferguson*

Reader Responds to the Above Article

I hope that you really use **Mr. James Ferguson's** name, I hope you use his name. Now, MR. FERGUSON, I don't know what you are trying to say here. It seems that you are calling us so-called Christians.

Let me tell you something BROTHER. Get off that kick right now. We've got young people dying and going to hell out there and it seems that all you have got on your mind is to harp on music. Heaven is going to full of music and you can't take it out. You might just as well get used to it because it's going to be all over heaven. That's what the Bible says.

You see, I read the Bible too, and it kind of upsets me when Christians can't find nothing else to talk about but music. Let me tell you something. I bet you that you ain't got 10 people in your church who are under 25 years old because your church is dying, BROTHER. The church that you are head of or whatever is dying and you are helping it die. Get off of that kick and get on the Bible.

Preach the Bible. Get our people saved so they can go to Heaven because there is a terrible time ahead of us here. I hope they do print all of this because I'll tell you I play music and I thank the good Lord that he gave me that talent. I'll play in Heaven if he asks me to. When I get to Heaven and he says "You play guitar boy, I'll be right there playing it." If He says, "You play the harp," I'll be right there playing it because I know that Heaven is going to be a wonderful place to live and I know there is going to be music all over it. Thank You.

Reply to the Above Response

Two weeks ago I wrote an article in our paper concerning worship to God and what kind of music He has authorized. I received a response in the SOUND OFF column and appreciated what the writer had to say. Using God's word I will address the questions.

The writer did not let us know his name but did imply that he was a guitar player. I will address him accordingly.

Mr. Musician, you are right about getting the young people interested in the Lord and that every effort should be used to the saving of their souls. But we cannot teach them wrong and expect them to go right; we can't teach them man's ideas and expect them to go God's way.

The Bible tells us that all unrighteousness is sin. I John 5:17. Every way that is against God's way is unrighteousness, for God is righteous and his ways are righteous.

God has told us in His Holy Word how He wants us to worship Him. When we take the Lord's Supper all will agree, we are to use the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine. Read Matthew 26:26-28. We are not told that we cannot have chicken and dumplings and cornbread on the Lord's Table, but we understand that when Jesus said bread and fruit of the vine, that it excluded everything else.

When God gives us the items used in our worship, everything else is excluded.

We are to sing – Ephesians 5:19

We are to pray – I Timothy 2:8

We are to preach/teach – II Timothy 4:1

We are to give of our means – I Corinthians 16:1-2

We are to take the Lord's Supper – Matthew 26:26

We cannot add nor can we subtract anything from what God has given us. To do so would be sin (unrighteousness) Revelation 22:18, 19.

Not only has God told us to sing but how to sing.

Colossians 3:16 Sing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

I Corinthians 14:15 Sing with the spirit and sing with the understanding.

Ephesians 5:19 Sing and make melody in your heart to the Lord.

Nowhere, in the New Testament (King James), can we find authorization from All Mighty God, to bring mechanical instruments into His worship. To do so would be sin. Therefore our worship would be vain (worthless/sinful) Psalms 127:1.

Mr. Musician will you find for me (anywhere) in the New Testament (King James) where God has authorized instrumental music in our worship to Him, and where heaven will be filled with instrumental music. In doing so, I will give you \$500.00. You see I love music, would love God's permission to play it in our worship to Him, but of my 30 years plus of studying God's word, I have not found authorization from God to do so. Please bring these scriptures down and

collect your \$500.00. I'll be happy, and I'm sure a large number of our 6,000 plus readers will be happy as well.

God sent His only Begotten Son down here and He died a cruel death to give us this road map (the Bible) that leads from earth to heaven. Let us not try to add nor subtract anything from God's word, to do so would be sin, Revelation 22:18, 19.

I write this column each week, not to hurt anyone's feelings but because I love your soul, and am trying to point the way to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

There is indeed a problem with our young not following the narrow way. But the root of the problem is with the parents. Letting them stay home and not taking them to God's house on the Lord's Day, buying them all kinds of perverted video games, etc. Parents not living a Christian life (not being an example to them).

Let us remember how far we have fallen from God and repent, or else our young people are going to be in a terrible fix. The Bible tells us we will reap what we sow.

Let us sow to God's word and we will surely reap everlasting life.

Thought for the day – A little leaven, leaveneth the whole lump (I Corinthians 5:6). Paul is talking about sin, and how a little sin contaminates the whole glorifying or (worship to God).

-----*Jimmy Ferguson*