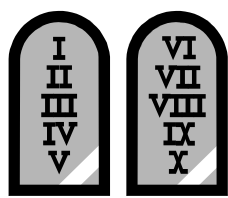


THE MUSIC WHICH GOD DESIRES IN WORSHIP

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INTRODUCTION: As we study this important subject, as with any other religious matter, we must allow the Bible to be our only guide and our sole authority! The question is not what we want or like, but what God has asked for and authorized! Let us notice some essential principles as we begin our study:

I. THE TWO COVENANTS



SINAI
1500 B. C.

A. We must recognize that there is a difference between the Old Covenant (Testament) and the New.

1. The Old Testament was given to the nation of Israel exclusively: Deuteronomy 5:1-3; 4:13; 9:9-11; Exodus 3:15; Exodus 20-24ff. about 1500 B. C.
2. God said that He would make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Jeremiah 31:31-34 about 600 B.C.
3. All mankind today is under this New Covenant, and the Old Covenant, or Law of Moses, has been done away by being nailed to the cross of Christ! Hebrews 8:6-7; 8:13; 7:12, 18; 9:15-17; 10:1, 9; Colossians 2:14; Galatians 3:19, 23, 24.

B. We must look at what God requires under the law of Christ, not under the law at Moses!



CALVARY
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II. THE SILENCE OF THE SCRIPTURES

A. God expects man to respect not only His voice, but also His silence!

1. Jeremiah 19:1-5
2. Proverbs 30:5, 6
3. Deuteronomy 4:1, 2

4. Deuteronomy 5:28-33
5. 1 Peter 4:11
6. 2 John 9-11
7. Revelation 22:18, 19

B. The principle of God's Word is simply this:

****Do not add to His Word!**

****Do not take away from His Word!**

C. This principle is easy to illustrate:

1. Consider the Lord's Supper,
 - a) praying to Mary,
 - b) burning incense in worship,
 - c) praying with a rosary,
 - d) having a Pope,
 - e) *etc, etc, etc.*

III. THE PRINCIPLE OF WORSHIP

A. It makes a difference how we worship God!

***“True
Worshippers”***

John 4:23, 24, “But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the father in spirit and in truth: for the father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

***“Spirit
&
Truth”***

B. Our worship can be wrong! Notice these verses:

1. Matthew 15:7-9.....vain worship
2. Acts 17: 23. ignorant worship
3. Colossians 2:21-23..... will worship

Let us now see what music God has established in the worship under the New Covenant!

MUSIC IN WORSHIP FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

SING

Matthew 26:30 – sung an hymn

Mark 14:26 – sung an hymn

Acts 16:25 – sang praises

Romans 15:9 – sing unto thy name

1 Corinthians 14:15 – sing with the spirit
and sing with the understanding

Ephesians 5:19 – singing and making
melody in your heart

Colossians 3:16 – singing with grace in you
hearts to the Lord

Hebrews 2:12 – sing praise unto thee

James 5:13 – sing psalms

SING & PLAY

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ZERO

Remember:

1. We are under the New Testament Covenant!
2. We can not add to the Word of God!
3. We must worship God as God directs!

**Where is the New Testament passage
for mechanical instruments in worship
in the New Testament church???**

WHY CHURCHES OF CHRIST DO NOT USE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP

1. IT VIOLATES THE LAW OF FAITH. (2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17)
2. IT VIOLATES THE LAW OF WORSHIP. (John 4:23, 24; John 17:17; Mark 7:7-9; Matthew 15:9; Colossians 2:23)
3. IT VIOLATES THE LAW OF UNITY. (1 Corinthians 1:10; Romans 15:5; John 12:48; Matthew 17:5; Romans 16:17)
4. IT WAS NOT COMMANDED BY THE APOSTLES. (Matthew 28:18-20). It was not part of “all truth” that they were to be guided into and which was revealed by the Holy Spirit (John 14:25, 26; 16:12, 13). It cannot be done by the authority of Christ (Colossians 3:17) and does not pertain unto life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
5. IT WAS NEVER USED IN THE PRIMITIVE CHURCH.
6. IT IS NOT INHERENT IN THE GREEK WORDS “PSALLO” AND “PSALMOS”. Leading translators and lexicographers concur and agree that in the New Testament these words refer only to vocal singing, with the human heart and the human voice being the only “instrument” accompanying Christians in worship unto God.
7. IT IS STRANGE FIRE. (read Leviticus 10:1, 2). Two priests, Nadab and Abihu, offered strange fire before the Lord. They both died before the Lord because they did not worship as God directed. Surely, we can see the principle in this Bible example: we must do that, and only that, which God has authorized in His Word. If something is not found in the Scriptures, it is indeed “strange.”
8. IT IS STRANGE MUSIC. There are only two kinds of music mentioned in the Bible: vocal and Instrumental. Only vocal music has been authorized in the church of our Lord. We cannot go beyond that which is written (1 Corinthians 4:6; 2 John 9-11; Revelation 22:18, 19).
9. IT VIOLATES GOD’S LAW OF EXCLUSION. The Bible does not say, “Do not use instrumental music in worship.” But it doesn’t have to. If we speak only as God has spoken (1 Peter 4:11), then that excludes all else! The Lord did not have to say, “Do not use mashed potatoes and buttermilk in the Lord’s Supper.” He didn’t have to. All He had to do was say what He wanted, unleavened bread and fruit of the vine, and all else is thereby excluded!

LET US SPEAK WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS A BE SILENT WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT

ARGUMENTS MADE FOR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ANSWERED

A. “WE MAY DO THAT WHICH GOD HAS NOT SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNED”

Answer: 1) The Bible says we must do only that which God has authorized, nothing more and nothing less. 2) What about adding to or taking from the Lord’s Supper? 3) What makes praying to Mary or having a Pope wrong?

B. “THERE ARE INSTRUMENTS IN HEAVEN” (Revelation 5:8, 9; 14:1-4; 15:2, 3)

Answer: 1) The Book of Revelation is a book of signs and symbols (Rev. 1:1ff). We are not in heaven now, we are the church upon earth. 2) There are many things spoken of in the book of Revelation in Heaven that are not here in the church on earth: golden censor, golden altar, street of gold, pearly gates, golden bowls, sea of glass, etc. 3) Matthew 22:30, in eternity, there is neither marrying nor giving in marriage. Shall we practice that?? Thus many things in Heaven not for us in the church on earth!!

C. “THE INSTRUMENT WAS USED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT”

Answer: 1) We have already seen the fact that we are under the New Testament. Where is the reference, command, or even implication that the instrument was used by the first century believers in the church? 2) In the Old Testament, there was animal sacrifice, burnt offerings, Levitical priesthood, etc. Shall we have these??

D. “THE APOSTLES AND EARLY CHRISTIANS MET IN THE TEMPLE WHICH HAD INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN IT”

Answer: 1) Then this would bind the entire temple service, which contradicts Hebrew 13. 2) What right do we have to take it out of the hands of the Jewish priests and give it to the church?? (see Numbers 10:10; 1 Chronicles 28; Ezra 3:10) 3) There is no proof that they worshipped with the instrument. When they “continued steadfastly” (Acts 2:42), it certainly wasn’t a Jewish worship service!

E. “IT IS JUST A MATTER OF OPINION”

Answer: 1) We walk by faith, not by opinions (2 Corinthians 5:7; Matthew 15:9). 2) God must be worshipped according to His will, not ours (John 4:23, 24) 3) We cannot divide over opinions – if one were to bring in an instrument and divide a congregation over an “opinion,” surely this would be wrong (see 1 Corinthians 1:10; John 17:20, 21; Romans 16:17).

LET US BE CONTENT WITH GOD’S PLAN AND GOD’S PATTERN FOR HIS PEOPLE!