

Instrumental Music in Worship Right or Wrong!

BY

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What difference does it make?

Our worship is vain - IF we follow the teaching of men

- Matt. 15:9
 - And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.
 - Is the use of instrumental music in worship following the teaching of men?

Its History

Used in the Old Testament (Psa. 149:1-9)

- If we try to be justified by the old law we are “fallen from grace”.
- Galatians 5:4 (NKJV)
 - **4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.**

Its History

Not used by the New Testament church

- Matthew 26:30 (NKJV)
 - ³⁰And when they had **sung** a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
- Acts 16:25 (NKJV)
 - ²⁵But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and **singing** hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.
- Romans 15:9 (NKJV)
 - ⁹and 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.”

Not used by the New Testament church

1 Corinthians 14:15 (NKJV)

- ¹⁵What 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.

Ephesians 5:19 (NKJV)

- ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,**

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)

- ¹⁶Let 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.

Not used by the New Testament church

Hebrews 2:12 (NKJV)

- ¹²saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will **sing** praise to You.”

James 5:13 (NKJV)

- ¹³Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him **sing** psalms.

Its history

When then, was it introduced to worship?

- **Added by Pope Vitalian I 670 A.D.**
- It threatened division and was taken out for 100 years

Its history

Its use was rejected by churches that began during the reformation movement

- John Calvin said that musical instruments in worship services would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of angels, and the restoration of the other shows of the law.
- John Wesley said that he had no objections to them in the Methodist chapels provided they were neither seen or heard.

Its history

Its use was rejected by churches that began during the reformation movement

- C. H. Spurgeon said, “we do not need them, they would hinder rather than help our praise.”
- Adam Clarke said, “Music as a science, I esteem and admire: but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor.”

Its history

Its use cause division among the restoration movement

- The Restoration Movement began with the attitude “**Go back to the Bible for authority for everything**”.
- There arose another attitude.

Its history

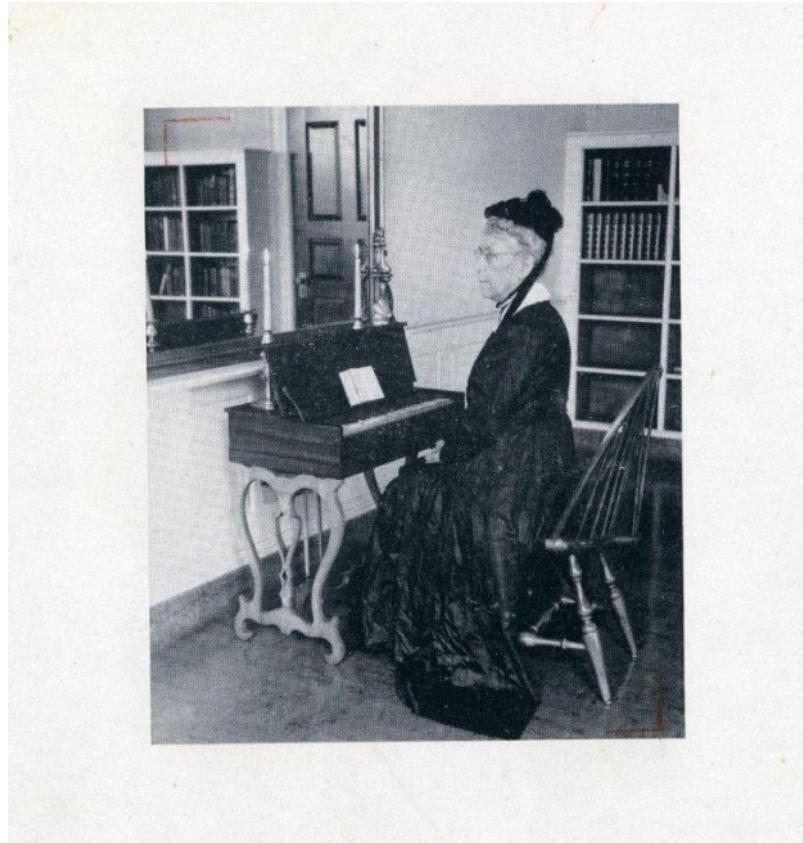
- Bro Hailey comments:
- It had been the firm conviction of the Reformers that the Scriptures provided a complete blue-print for the church of all ages; not only in the matter of salvation from sin, but also in church organization, in worship, and in the moral life of the individual.
- With so many coming into the movement from current denominations, it would have been impossible for some not to bring with them more liberal views than others; nor must the general social changes taking place over the country be overlooked.
- **Consequently, there developed gradually change of attitudes.**

Two distinct attitudes:

1. One, that the Scriptures provided the all-sufficient guide in matters of doctrine, worship, and morality
2. The other, that where the Scriptures did not specifically forbid a thing, the worshipper was at liberty to use his own judgment and wisdom in the matter of its introduction.

The second attitude produced the introduction of the instrument into worship

It was introduced by L. L. Pinkerton at Midway Kentucky in 1859



The second attitude

At first it was used by only a few churches, but those who introduced it argued that it was necessary because of poor singing in the churches.

Isaac Everet argued:

- To a sense of this great imperfection the churches are waking up. But, What shall be done? is the question.
- Some are for seeking a remedy in choir singing. Others are urging the necessity of instrumental music, alike to guide and elevate the taste of our churches.
- Many, on the other hand, are in favor of going back to the old tunes: and we presume a large majority of the brethren tenaciously cling to the practice of congregational singing—preferring even poor music where all may join, to the most attractive performances, where this delightful part of worship is surrendered to a few.

What difference does it make?

We are to worship in spirit and in truth

- Jn. 4:24
 - “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- Is it worshiping in spirit and in truth?
 - Truth
 - Every place music is mention, it is always without the instrument
 - Matt. 26:30; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Heb. 13:15; Jas. 5:13
 - Spirit
 - Must come from the heart – not manufactured

What difference does it make?

We must have authority for what we do

- Col. 3:16
 - 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.
- 1 Tim. 4:16
 - Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Do we have authority for the use of instrumental music in worship?

If so, where?

Serious?

- **Matthew 7:21-23**

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

²³ And then I will declare to them, **'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'**

What difference does it make?

We are to follow the pattern

- 2 Tim. 1:13
 - Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
- Heb. 8:5
 - Who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.

What difference does it make?

We must not go beyond the teaching of scripture

- 2 Jn. 9-10
 - Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.