

# God Approved Music in Worship

## Introduction

1. **The one thing that most religious people do not understand is why most churches of Christ do not use mechanical instruments of music in worship.**
2. **Most feel that it doesn't matter whether you use mechanical instruments, such as a piano, or not.**
  - A. **Mechanical instruments have evolved to the point that now most religious people think a group is "backward" who does not use them.**
3. **This is NOT an insignificant matter!**
  - A. **It is fundamentally important how we approach God in our worship to Him.**

John 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; **for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- B. **A failure to approach God acceptably causes Him to reject our worship – resulting in spiritual death.**  
**Leviticus 10:1-3**

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain....

Amos 5:21-24 "I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.

- C. **Instrumental music in worship causes division in churches.**

**4. The New Testament of Christ only endorses “singing” — NOT playing a mechanical instrument added to singing.**

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

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.

**5. Those who oppose the use of instruments of music in worship is based upon Bible principles of interpretation which are essential to preserving New Testament Christianity.**

## History of Instrumental Music in Worship

1. When was the instrument first used in church worship?
  - A. The New Testament is silent on the use of instruments in worship.
  - B. History is silent concerning instruments of music in worship until the 7<sup>th</sup> century.
    - 1) It was only sparingly used until the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
2. The use of instrumental music in worship was not instituted by Christ or His apostles (no controversy – it was not used!)
  - A. It was added by man without God’s approval.  
**2 John 9-11**

**SEE CHARTS OF QUOTATIONS FROM MEN IN HISTORY**

## A Matter of Bible Authority

### 1. All activities of the church must be authorized.

Colossians 3:17 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.

Matthew 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

- A. **Example: A check is valid only when the authorized signature is present.**
- B. **Where is Christ's "authorizing signature" for instrumental music in worship?**

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God...

### 2. We MUST respect the silence of God's Word – not add to it.

- A. **Some insist that the Bible does not say:**
  - 1) **"thou shalt not use mechanical instruments of music in worship."**
  - 2) **"thou shalt not have ham, potatoes, and beans on the Lord's table."**
- B. **We cannot go beyond what is written!**
  - Galatians 1:8-9**
  - 1 Corinthians 4:6**
- C. **The silence from God is restraint (not a license) for man.**
  - Hebrews 7:13-14**

**3. The mechanical instrument of music is an addition, not an aid, to true worship.**

**A. God has specified the kind of music that He accepts: **Vocal****

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

**B. Any other music that is used is simply an addition.**

**1) Example of Noah with "Gopher Wood"**

**C. "Aids" do not change the force or action of the commandment.**

**1) Song books, pitch pipe, leader: **Aid to singing.****

**2) These things do not introduce another kind of music into our worship to God.**

**4. Whenever we disregard and violate God's authority, we:**

**A. Open the floodgate to error and apostasy  
**2 Timothy 2:16-17****

**B. Forfeit fellowship with God (2 John 9).**

**C. Sin and lose our souls  
**Matthew 7:21-23****

## The Defense of Instrumental Music in Worship

### 1. **They were used in Old Testament worship**

2 Chronicles 29:25 And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by His prophets.

- A. **Also used was the burning of incense, animal sacrifices, keeping the feast days, etc.**
- B. **Old Testament is done away and we are now in Christ.**

2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

- C. **The Old Testament is a shadow of the New Testament substance.**  
**Colossians 2:14-17**

### 2. **In Ephesians 5:19 "Psallo" means to pluck/twang, there must be an instrument involved.**

- A. **That scripture tells us what is plucked – the heart!**
  - 1) **Otherwise everyone would have to play an instrument.**
- B. **Psallo "In the New Testament is to sing a hymn, sing praise. (Rom 15:9; 1 Cor 14:15; James 5:13) – Vine, III:58**
- C. **"In the New Testament to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song." Thayer, 675.**

### 3. **There are instruments in heaven.**

Revelation 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

#### A. **Heaven is a spiritual realm – not a physical one**

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

#### B. **Physical things included in a spiritual place?**

- 1) **Revelation is a book of signs, symbols and figures**
- 2) **No more literal than the chain that binds Satan (Rev 20:1-2)**

### 4. **We use them at home.**

#### A. **Things can be morally right but religiously wrong.**

#### B. **We have no authority to use them in worship to God anywhere.**

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

### 5. **It sounds pretty. We want it and we are going to have it.**

#### A. **That is obstinate rebellion — walking by sight.**

1 Samuel 8:19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us,

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

6. **Worship is a right thing to do and there is no wrong way to do it.**
  - A. Tell that to Nadab and Abihu! (Lev 10:1-2)
  - B. Jesus said there is a wrong way to do it.  
**Matthew 15:7-9**
  
7. **THE ARGUMENT WE NEVER HAVE HEARD: "We should use Instrumental Music in Worship Because the New Testament Commands It and the Early Church Used it."**

## Conclusion

1. **We must never go beyond the authority of Christ which is revealed in the New Testament.**
  - A. **We are complete in them.**

1 Corinthians 14:37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2. **May we always be content with God's ways — ALWAYS!**

