

USE OF INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP IS FORBIDDEN

I. The early church sang but did not use instruments in worship.

- A. Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 instruct us teach through singing.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 14:15.
 - 2. Hebrews 13:15.
 - 3. We don't see anywhere in the New Testament where early Christians played instruments or were told to do so.
 - 4. The Jews used instruments in Mosaic worship and the pagans did as well in idol worship but the early Christians never did.
- B. There is no evidence of instruments being added in worship until about the 10th century.
 - 1. For nearly a thousand years this was not used in worship to God by anyone.
 - 2. It was not commonly used until the 14th century.
- C. The word "a cappella" means to sing like they do in the church - with out instruments, only voice.
- D. If a person is committed to the restoration of New Testament Christianity, which means to follow a the early example and teaching, then instruments of music will not be used.
 - 1. It would be extremely difficult, to plead with someone to return to New Testament Christianity using an innovation that did not come about until the 10th century.
 - 2. If we don't use the New Testament as our model in one matter, how can we ask someone to in another matter?
- E. If we are going to be like 1st century Christians, we are going to sing and not play instruments in worship to God.

II. God commands us to follow His directions in worship.

- A. From all the accounts that we noticed in the beginning, and many more that we didn't, we should see that God expects us to worship Him as He directs, not how we want to do it.
 - 1. God's message is: "If you want to please Me, worship as I have directed."
 - 2. God has never left the how of worship to man's mind.
 - 3. If we are worshiping to please God, it makes sense to worship so we can be sure to please God.
- B. Some say there is no verse that says we cannot use instruments.
 - 1. That is true, but the sentiment is taught.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 11:23 - Paul condemns the Corinthians because they added other things to the Lord's Supper.
 - a. He said he gave them what the Lord gave him.
 - b. He basically is saying that I told you what the Lord said do and you are not doing it.
 - 3. Those changes made them guilty of the body and blood of the Lord..
 - 4. When God has told His people what to do, He expects them to do

- that and not add other things to it.
- C. We see and believe this principle in every walk of life.
 - 1. What if our pharmacist added medicines to our prescriptions and said, He didn't tell me not to?
 - 2. What if you are invited to dinner at six and you show up at five or nine and say, you didn't tell me not to?
 - D. In the same way, God has specified singing in worship and we can know we are pleasing Him if we just sing like He said.

III. **Many religious leaders have opposed using instruments in worship.**

- A. There is a tremendous list of denominational leaders and preachers who opposed the instrument.
- B. There is a book recommended to us at Polishing the Pulpit by br. Alan Highers entitled Old Light on New Worship.
 - 1. It was written by a denominational preacher after he did an in depth study on the use of instruments in worship.
 - 2. Upon his study, the congregation for which he preached removed the instruments from their services.
 - 3. He listed many who were against the instrument.
- C. Years ago, M.C. Kurfees wrote a book entitled Instrumental Music in the Worship.
 - 1. In it he quoted a musical historian from London's Royal Academy of Music named John S. Curwen.
 - 2. He said, "Men still living can remember the time when organs were very seldom found outside the Church of England. The Methodists, Independents, and Baptists rarely had them and by the Presbyterians they were stoutly opposed."
- D. Adam Clarke, a Methodist commentator who lived from 1762 to 1832, was against them.
 - 1. He said, "Away with such portentous baubles from the worship of that infinite Spirit who requires His followers to worship Him in spirit and in truth, for to no such worship are those instruments friendly."
 - 2. He also quoted John Wesley, founder of the Methodist religion, who said, "I have no objections to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen."
- E. John Calvin wrote: "Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law."
 - 1. Many that opposed it early on, did so on the grounds that it was bringing in Judaism to Christian worship.
 - 2. Thomas Aquinas, a Catholic writer, thought adding instruments was a movement toward Judaism in 1250.
 - 3. Most of the reformers felt the same way - Zwingli, Hus and others were all against the instrument because of it.
- F. Charles Spurgeon, one of the greatest Baptist preachers ever, wrote: We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it.
- G. David Benedict was a Baptist historian who lived in the mid-1800's.

1. He wrote a book entitled Fifty Years Among the Baptists.
 2. In it he wrote, "Staunch old Baptists in former times would as soon have tolerated the Pope of Rome in their pulpits as an organ in their galleries."
- H. I do realize that what men say is not as important as the Bible.
1. However, we can learn that instruments have been opposed by many religions.
 2. We also learn that the use of instruments in very recent except in the case of the Catholic Church.

IV. We can be sure that singing is acceptable to God in worship.

- A. Some might ask if it is a salvation issue.
 1. Adding to was for Nadab and Abihu.
 2. It was for the Corinthians.
- B. A better way to look at is that there is no way to know that it is not a salvation issue.
 1. We know the safe way, the way that pleases God.
 2. We can teach people to sing knowing it pleases God.
- C. Apostles were under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and they wrote to us to sing and that is what we teach people today.

Material for this sermon came from Stafford North and Alan Highers