

At the end of God's revelation we are warned, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18,19).

"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you" (Deut. 4:2). Also see Joshua 1:7 and Proverbs 30:6. From these verses we can surely know it is wrong to add to or take away from God's Word. Even from our own daily activities we know that it is not right to add to or take away from anyone's word.

MIM in New Testament worship to God is an addition! The New Testament example is to sing. See Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 (the commands) and see what the sum total is. It is singing. If MIM in worship to God is not an addition to the doctrine of Christ, then please give us book, chapter, and verse where it is authorized in the New Covenant!

The MIM Cannot Accomplish Anything That God Requires

It is easy to see the requirements that God sets forth concerning the music He wants in worship. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" (Eph. 5:19). "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" (Col. 3:16).

God's creation, the human voice, can accomplish what God requires:

- ✓ It can speak words that can be understood.
- ✓ It can sing words of truth.
- ✓ It can teach and admonish.

The MIM can do none of the things that God requires. Furthermore, IF the MIM were authorized, by the above verses, then everyone would have to play an instrument of music, not just one or two persons. Study the verses well and please follow God. ♥



" Holding forth the word of life "

WOL

(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

WOL



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Why The Church Of Christ Does Not Use Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship (part 2)

by Perry Sexton

Last month I basically asked for input from anyone who could provide Scripture for the use of mechanical instruments of music (MIM) in worship to God, but no one responded. This is normal because of the simple fact that none can be offered. There is no command, no example of the New Testament church ever using MIM in worship. Biblical and secular history bears out the fact that the early church did not use MIM in worship to God. The command, the example, the pattern for Christians is to **sing**. Acceptable worship to God is that which is done by divine authority of God (John 4:23,24).

No Authority for Use of MIM in Worship to God (The Law of Exclusion)

Immediately following the command to "sing" in Colossians 3:16 we have this admonition: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17). The meaning of "in the name of the Lord Jesus" is by His authority. We must have authority for everything we do in religion. Jesus stated it another way: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). The Word of God is truth (John 17:17). In God's truth we only have authority to sing the songs, not sing and play a MIM in worship to God. The command is plain: "sing." This is a specific command: God gave the kind of music He wanted. If God had said to make music, that would have been a general command and we would be at liberty to make any kind of music we desired in worship or any combination thereof. But God did not give a general command, He gave a specific

command: “sing.” Just like God gave a specific command to Noah: “Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch” (Gen. 6:14). The command was specific: “Make thee an ark of gopher wood;...” Noah was restricted to using only “gopher wood” in the construction of the ark. Had God said, “make thee an ark of wood,” then Noah would have been at liberty to use any kind of wood he wanted or combination of wood.

This is a lesson we also should have learned from Nadab and Abihu: “And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. {2} And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD” (Lev. 10:1,2). “Strange” has to do with that which is unauthorized. It is explained by “which he commanded them not.” In other words, God had told them the source from which they were to get the fire, but they got it from a different source: a source which God commanded them not. God simply told them where to get the fire. God did not have to tell all the many places they were not to get the fire.

This is the law of exclusion of which we all use practically every day of our lives. There are many examples, I’ll only use one: Whenever you order food at a restaurant you are authorizing what the waitress or waiter is to bring you and for what you will pay. You do not have to name everything they sell and tell them not to bring those items. Can you imagine living in such a world that we would have to name everything that we do not want when placing an order of any kind? We could not. Yet when it comes to religion some people want to be able to do anything God has not specifically said not to do! Such is very irrational. The Bible is the most logical book in the world. We must treat it as such. We are to read and understand God’s Word. Please note Ephesians 5:17, “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*.” This applies in every subject area, but please note that it is in the context of the subject at hand (v.19). It is truly a very unwise thing for anyone to attempt to serve God and for that person not to understand what God desires, and indeed requires. We are to study and use God’s Word correctly (cp. 2 Tim. 2:15).

Many people of the denominations use principles concerning the Lord’s Supper that they will not use concerning MIM in worship. They will not allow the addition of anything else to this memorial

saying basically that God told us what to use: unleavened bread and fruit of the vine. This is true (Matt. 26:26ff; 1 Cor. 11:23ff). But the same is true of the kind of music God wants in worship to Him. God has told us plainly what to do with the “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.” By commandment and example we are to “sing” the “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.” MIM in worship to God are not authorized! How much plainer could God have made it???

These things (Old Testament events) were written for our learning (Rom. 15:4). Please let us learn. God commands us to sing, the example is to sing. Playing of a MIM in worship to God is unauthorized! For further study on the law of exclusion or authority see: Hebrews 7:14 and context. God named or authorized the tribe from which they were to get the priest, that excluded all the other tribes. When God gives a specific command it excludes everything else just like it does with us in our daily dealings. All people can understand this very simple and basic principle.

We Must Not Transgress The Doctrine Of Christ

We are warned: “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 1:9). Jesus is the mediator of the New Testament: His doctrine (Heb. 9:15). As has already been established God’s law for us is to sing in worship. This is the doctrine Christ. If we follow it we are pleasing to God, but if we go beyond God’s will, we are transgressors. Those who add MIM in worship to God are not following the “doctrine of Christ,” and therefore “hath not God.” We plead with you to consider these things very carefully and diligently. Your soul is too valuable to be lost to error (Matt. 15:9,13,14).

Many Are Caught Up In Vain Worship

Jesus said: “But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men” (Matt. 15:9). It should be clear to anyone who has studied this material so far that MIM used in worship is not of God; therefore it must be of man. Such worship does not respect God nor His will. Vain worship does not honor God and is not acceptable to Him regardless of the sincerity of the ones offering it. Let us be certain that our worship is according to truth (John 4:23,24). Are you a true worshipper of God???

We Must Not Add to The Word of God