

We Are Under The New Testament

For space sake I did not spend much time on the heading of “MIM in Worship to God Was Overlooked, But Condemned in The Old Testament.” The fact is, whether MIM in worship was God’s will in the Old Testament system or something God “winked at” is really irrelevant to New Testament worship. There were many things that were God’s will in the old system that are not in the new law, e.g., Sabbath keeping, animal sacrifices, the many feasts, etc.

We must not go back to the Old Testament for law in the New Testament Age. We are to go back for “learning” the great lessons (Rom. 15:4). Please study Galatians 3:19 through 5:4. Paul is refuting the error of going back to the old law and keeping it. Christians are free from that law of bondage. **Those who go back to the Old Testament for justification of anything cannot be saved:** “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Gal. 5:4). Why is this so? Because to go back is to turn away from the saving blood of Christ and turn to the blood of bulls and goats of the old law (Heb. 10:4). Those who use MIM in worship to God are doing so contrary to the blood bought covenant of Jesus (cp. Heb. 10:29). It is a very serious insult to God and His Son!

I ask with all respect and love for your souls, where is New Testament authority for the use of MIM in worship to God? As was seen in last month’s issue, it cannot be given. If MIM in worship were of God it would be easy to prove, but it is not. It is an innovation of man (1 Chron. 23:5 cp. Amos 6:1-5; Acts 7:41). 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. We must humble ourselves before Almighty God and submit to His will. God’s history Book bears out the fact that most people, though religious, are very rebellious and do what THEY want! The bottom line concerning MIM is: “We like it.” I have heard this many times. ♥

“Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness” (Psa. 30:2)



“Holding forth the word of life”

WOL

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

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Why The Church Of Christ Does Not Use Mechanical Instruments Of Music In Worship (part 3)

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As we continue in this study let us look briefly at a few more items of extreme importance concerning the subject at hand.

MIM in Worship to God is Not According to The Pattern For The New Testament Church

There is a pattern or blueprint for the New Testament church. This is an essential principle to know if we will be saved. We must follow the pattern and not depart from it (cp. verses below and many others).

Let us learn from the Old Testament which is preserved for us for our learning (Rom. 15:4). “Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left” (Deut. 5:32). Has God’s character or attitude changed in this area? No! Jesus stated: “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: {14} Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matt. 7:13,14). We must stay within the boundaries (follow the pattern) God has given us and not turn aside to the left or to the right, which is the broad way.

The Israelites under the Old Testament were to construct the tabernacle and all the furnishings thereof according to the “pattern” that God showed Moses (Exodus 25:9). The tabernacle of old stands as a type of the New Testament church. The Hebrew writer is clearly showing a contrast between things of the Old Covenant or Testament to that of the New Covenant/Testament. It would be good for the

reader to at least study Hebrews chapters 7-10. The “true tabernacle” (Heb. 8:2) is the church that Jesus built (cp. Matt. 16:18,19). The inspired man of God is showing that the things of old serve as an “example” of “heavenly things,” i.e., the church and that which pertains to it. And “..., as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount” (Heb. 8:5). If Moses and the Israelites were cautioned to “make all things according to the pattern,” speaking of the earthly tabernacle, how much more must we be certain to follow the New Testament pattern for the church (cp. Heb. 2:1)??? Only when we follow the pattern completely for the church, are we the faithful church of Christ! There are multitudes of Scriptures warning us of this fact (cp. Matt. 7:13-27; 15:8-14; 1 John 1:7; 4:1, etc.).

There is no pattern for Mechanical Instruments Of Music (MIM) in worship to God in the New Testament – the covenant sealed with the blood of Jesus. If you use MIM in worship, please examine yourself why you use it (2 Cor. 13:5). Ask your preacher why it is used and to give you the pattern for MIM in worship to God in the New Testament. In truth, no man can do that! Where is book, chapter, and verse? Your preacher has a God given responsibility to give you a biblical answer (1 Peter 3:15). In the type of the church, the tabernacle, where is the type for MIM in worship to God? It is not there! These are very important questions for people who are serious about their salvation.

The un-get-over-able pattern for New Testament music in worship is “singing.” We are very concerned for your soul and pass these biblical truths on to you that you may not follow the “blind leaders” to eternal destruction (cp. Matt. 15:9,14). Friends, God means what He says (cp. Lev. 10:1,2; Rom. 11:22, etc.). We are further warned: “See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:” (Heb. 12:25). God has spoken on the kind of music He wants in worship to Him. Furthermore, God has given us examples of the kind of music He desires (see part 1, page 3). God desires that we use His creation, the human voice, to sing praise unto Him. Will YOU hear and obey???

MIM in Worship to God Was Overlooked, But Condemned in The Old Testament

In Amos 6 woes are pronounced on those who are not walking according to God’s way. And very plainly stated is the “woe” to them: “That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of music, like David;” (Amos 6:5). Of course people try to get around this by explaining it away like any Scripture they do not like, but those same Scriptures will meet them in the Judgment! Some say what is condemned are those who made instruments for use in idol worship, but the verse says: “like David.” Was David an idolater?

Furthermore, there were many things under the Old Testament which God “winked at” or in a sense overlooked which must not be done under the New Testament. “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:” (Acts 17:30). The Old Testament Age is referred to as “the times” while “now” is referring to the New Testament Age. Please study the following examples and Scriptures (run your own references).

- One of the things “winked at” was divorce. Please study Matthew 19:3-9. Jesus goes all the way back to the beginning to show God’s will on the matter of marriage and divorce, yet certain divorces were allowed by the law of Moses, but such is not allowed now. Please consider verse 8 carefully.
- What about polygamy (1 Kings 11:3)? This also is answered by God’s will from the beginning.
- God allowed a king to rule Israel, but it was against His will (1 Samuel 8:7; 10:19; 12:17).

Like so many things under the old law it should be clear that MIM in worship was simply “winked at” by God. Do not forget Amos 6 above. But now, in this Age, God commands all men everywhere to repent. Are YOU worshipping in truth? Please consider these questions:

1. Is MIM in worship to God of God, or of man (1 Chron. 23:5 cp. Amos 6:1,5)?
2. If it is of God, then please give the references. If you cannot, you should know it is of man (cp. Matt. 15:9,14).
3. Where in the New Testament, the covenant all men are under today, do you read of the MIM being used in worship to God?
4. What does Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 instruct us to do with the “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs”?
5. Is anything ever said about using the MIM in worship to God in the New Testament? If so, where?
6. Shall we add to or take away from the Word of God (Rev. 22:18,19)? MIM is an addition to worship!