

Where in the Word of truth (2 Cor. 6:7; John 17:17) do you read of MIM being authorized by God?

We Desire Heaven As Our Eternal Home

The Bible is very clear as to who will be saved. It is those who obey the gospel of Christ (Heb. 5:9 cp. 2 Thess. 1:8), and keep on doing the will of God (Matt. 7:21; 1 John 1:7; 2 John 9). It is God's will that His people worship in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:24) which clearly show that we are to sing songs of praise unto God (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Furthermore, we are given the solemn 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).

Friends, many more points could be made as to why we must not use MIM in worship to God, and more could be said under each point. But what has been said is more than enough for the honest hearted person (Luke 8:15) to know the truth on this matter. From a heart of love for God, His word, and your soul we plead with you to consider these things written here very carefully. People who are honestly seeking to please God should study this matter very carefully. Let us know if we can assist you. ♥

Compare The Chart With These Verses

"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 or Man's Invention:	Voice	MIM
Speak words that can be understood	✓	x
Sing words of truth	✓	x
Teach through songs	✓	x
Admonish through songs	✓	x
Accomplishes what God wants and authorizes	✓	x



"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 4)

by Perry Sexton

So far we have shown that the New Testament command is to sing; the New Testament example is to sing; that the use of mechanical instruments of music (MIM) in worship is from man; that there is no authority for use of MIM in worship to God; the law of exclusion forbids the use of MIM in worship to God; to use the MIM in worship is to transgress the doctrine of Christ; many are caught up in vain worship by using MIM in worship; that using MIM in worship is an addition to the word of God; the MIM cannot accomplish anything that God requires; using MIM in worship is not according to the pattern for the New Testament church; using MIM in worship to God was overlooked, but condemned in the Old Testament; we are under the New Testament in this Age; and those who go back to the Old Testament for justification of anything cannot be saved!

Friends, these things are very serious. In conclusion, let us look at just a few more very important items concerning the use of MIM in worship to Almighty God.

For Love Of God And The Truth

Please think of the great love that God has for mankind (John 3:16, etc.). I am reminded of an article by brother G.K. Wallace where he made the point that Jesus was held to the cross, not by the spikes, but by love, "love for you and for me." A lot has been said about love in the spiritual realm in our day, but not much about true biblical love. Friends, the same kind of love that held Jesus to the cross will hold us to His doctrine (2 John 9)! Concerning the kind of music we are to

have in worship: the doctrine of Christ says **singing**. It is clear that God wants man to use God's creation, the voice, in worship to Him, not the inventions of men (cp. Amos 6:5; Acts 7:41). "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Are you held to the doctrine of Christ by true love? "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me" (John 14:24 cp. Heb. 9:15).

God's Will Be Done, Not Ours

Jesus certainly set the example for us in this area as well. When facing the cruel cross of Calvary, Jesus fervently prayed: "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39). Dear reader, can you honestly say, concerning your worship to God, "God's will be done" (cp. Matt. 26:42)? Are we not to have this attitude (Matt. 6:10). Can we say with the psalmist: "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart" (Psalms 40:8).

Many are simply caught up in using MIM in worship because that is what their church has always done. But friends, you must not follow your church, you **MUST** follow the Bible, the doctrine of Christ if you will be saved! But for others, the real problem is not MIM, it is heart trouble! They are self-willed, not God-willed. They are willingly blinded to the truth: "For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" (Acts 28:27). They are the blind teachers that you must not follow (Matt. 15:14; cp. 7:15). Dear reader, how is your heart? Please consider God's desire for you as was seen with Israel: "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!" (Deut. 5:29 cp. 2 Peter 3:9).

We Strive To Please God And Not Ourselves

With all kindness and with great love for your souls I must say this in hopes of waking someone out of spiritual error: It is not that people cannot understand these things, it is that some people refuse to understand! And there are many reasons for this: e.g., **pride** (I'll do it my way), **apathy** (who cares), **laziness** (not willing to study for oneself, content to follow the "blind leaders"), etc.

The true church of Christ is very careful to understand the Lord's will and to obey Him in all things as much as is humanly possible. What is wrong with that kind of attitude? We want to have the record of Enoch: "... for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God" (Heb. 11:5 cp. 1 Thess. 2:4; 1 John 3:22). We are willing to forgo our wishes, desires and wants in order to do the Lord's will. We want to have the faith that obeys God as did faithful Abraham and many others.

MIM In Worship To God Is Not Of Faith

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3). Jude was speaking of the system of faith in the New Covenant. Again, where are MIM in worship found in the New Testament? They are not, therefore MIM in worship to God is not of the faith. And: "whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (cp. Rom. 14:23).

We should have learned this from Cain and Abel. Why were Cain and his sacrifice rejected by God (Gen. 4:3-5)? Because Cain did not offer it by faith. That is, he did not obey God in the matter. But Abel offered his sacrifice by faith: "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh" (Heb. 11:4). True Bible faith comes by hearing the Word of God. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Just hear God and obey Him! Abel heard and obeyed God, but Cain did what he thought was right, and he was dead wrong!

No Place For Entertainment In Worship To God

Seeing the MIM cannot accomplish anything God wants (see part 2, page 4), the only thing left is man's desires: Doing what pleases man. Please examine yourselves as we also examine ourselves according to God's instructions (2 Cor. 13:5), are you/we seeking to please God or yourself/our self and other men (Gal. 1:10)? We are to worship God in "spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). That does not include entertaining one another and God is certainly not entertained by MIM in worship directed to Him, nor is God seeking to be entertained.