

Topical Studies in the Scriptures

June 8, 2016

Introduction: It has been requested that we study regarding:

- Why do we sing?
- Why do we not have instrumental music?
- How do we explain to those who are curious about this important topic?

1. What do you think are some important differences between those of us who desire to practice New Testament Christianity and the denominations and religious groups around us? _____

2. What do you think religious groups in our community think are the major differences? _____

In the Old Testament we see many shadows and figures of what God had in mind for us in the church. (Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrew 10:1; Romans 15:4)

1. Were musical instruments ever used in the Old Testament? (2 Samuel 6:5; 1 Chronicles 15:16)? _____
2. Make a list of some practices in the Old Testament that are fulfilled in a spiritual way in the New Testament:

Old Testament Physical	New Testament Spiritual
Jerusalem was the place of worship	Worship is in spirit and truth (John 4:24)
Musical Instruments	Col 3:16; Eph 5:19; Heb 13:15

3. Do we have an instrument for worship today? _____

It is important to know that even though musical instruments are never mentioned in the worship of the church, there were instruments in New Testament times.

1. What instrument is mentioned:
 - a. Matthew 11:17 _____
 - b. Luke 7:32 _____
 - c. 1 Corinthians 13:1 _____
 - d. 1 Corinthians 14:7 _____
2. Notice how these are used in figurative ways, but these examples do illustrate that Christians in New Testament times were aware of the presence in their culture of the availability of instruments.
3. In John's vision in Revelation instruments are also mentioned. What instruments does John see:
 - a. Revelation 5:8 _____
 - b. Revelation 14:2-3 _____
 - c. Revelation 15:2-3 _____
 - d. It is notable that John saw these things that were signified (Rev 1:1).
4. Even though musical instruments were present within the culture of the New Testament, what do these passages say that Jesus, His disciples, and the saints did?
 - a. Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26 _____
 - b. Acts 16:25 _____
 - c. Romans 15:9 _____
 - d. 1 Corinthians 14:15 _____
 - e. Ephesians 5:19 _____
 - f. Colossians 3:16 _____
 - g. Hebrews 2:12 _____
 - h. Hebrews 13:15 _____
 - i. James 5:13 _____
5. When giving instruction in Colossians 3:16 to "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." we see that these instructions are followed up in verse 17 with, "And _____ you do in word or deed, do all in the _____ of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

There are some common comments that are made when discussing these things with friends/family/acquaintances to defend instrumental music in worship. How would you answer these questions/comments?

1. The Bible does not say THOU SHALT NOT use instrumental music. _____

2. You use lots of things that are not authorized (song books, pitch pipe, the building, pews, etc etc etc. _____

3. I don't think this is a topic that God is concerned about (He doesn't care one way of the other.) _____

4. They did it in the Old Testament and it pleased God. _____

5. Psalms were always meant to be sung with accompaniment. _____

6. If someone has the talent of playing a musical instrument, they should use this in worship to glorify God. _____

7. John saw instruments in Heaven in his vision in Revelation, so they must be pleasing to God. _____

8. I love how it sounds, it is so uplifting. _____

9. The beautiful sound of the instruments (or having a great band) will attract people from the community to come to services. _____

Why We Sing and Don't Play

By Robert Turner

True Christians are committed to the principle that Christ is their King, and that their worship and service to Him must be authorized in His word. They believe they have no right to "speak where he has not spoken" (GOD'S WORK IN GOD'S WAY) hence, seek to answer religious questions by citing divine will. (Book chapter and verse)

We are not under the Old Testament (2 Cor. 3: 11-18) nor is our worship determined by figurative descriptions of heaven (Rev. 14: 2); so David's harp and heavenly "voices" have no bearing upon the subject. We are concerned with New Testament authority for music in worship, and here present all passages that deal with this subject. Perhaps you can decide why we sing and do not play.

Matthew 26: 30 "when they had sung a hymn....."

Mark 14: 26 "when they had sung a hymn....."

Acts 16: 25 "prayed, and sang praises unto God....."

Romans 15: 9 "confess to thee – and sing unto thy name..."

I Corinthians 14: 15 "Sing with the spirit and understanding..."

Ephesians 5: 19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Colossians 3: 16 "teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Hebrews 2:12 "in the midst of the church will I sing...."

James 5: 13 "Is any merry? Let him sing psalms..."

To avoid the force of these passages some appeal to PSALLO, the Greek word translated "sing" ("making melody" Ephesians 5: 19) because in earlier Greek it meant to "pluck twang, as the strings of a harp, or a carpenter's chalk line." But its New Testament meaning was "sing" as all the translators testify. Further, if it does mean "play a harp" ALL worshipers would have to do so in order to obey these commands, No "psalloing" would be acceptable without the instrument.

Appeals to popularity, love of the arts, church traditions, etc., fall far short of providing divine authority for instrumental music in worship. Secular history points to 666 AD as the date for the first use of mechanical music in worship by church authority—that is far from God's way.