

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
Speaker, Robert Emerson
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

"O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly..." —Psa 63:1



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Servants during December:

Songleader: Peter (1), Dwight (8), Stanley (15), Larry (22), David (29), Peter (1/5)

Reading: Robert; Mike (Jan)

Announcements: Marty; Robert (Jan)

Table: Larry, Mike, Lakin, Stanley; David, Peter, Marty, Stanley (Jan)

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (4), Stanley (11), Kris (18), Larry (25), Stanley (1/1)

Lawn Mowing (week starting):

On winter break...

Singing: TBD (1/26)

Area Meetings: South Cullman (1/17-19)

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road
 Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Analyzing Arguments in Favor of Instrumental Music (Part 2)

By Mark Mayberry

This is the conclusion of a two part article dealing with common arguments that are often made in favor of instrumental music; part one considered the arguments, "it is an expedient," and "it was used in the Old Testament." In this article, we consider four more...

song. When God specifies what he wants, unauthorized alternatives are excluded.

There is a maxim of law, which states that the expression of one thing is the exclusion of another. It must be so, for otherwise legal contracts would not be definite, and there would be no precise understanding of law. In the Patriarchal dispensation, God commanded Noah to make an ark of gopher-wood. This positive command disallowed the use of any other kind of wood. In the Mosaic dispensation when the Passover was instituted, God specified that a lamb was to be killed - not a heifer or a goat; it was

"It Is Not Explicitly Forbidden."

Others would argue for the use of instrumental music by saying, "God didn't say not to use it!" However, such a premium on silence could justify almost anything. The Bible does not have to specifically condemn something for it to be wrong. Faith is based upon the Word of God, Rom 10: 17; 2 Cor 5:7. Our Father has clearly and positively stated that he wants us to worship him in

to be one year old - not two or three; it was to be without blemish—not with a blemish; it was to be offered on the fourteenth day of the month—not some other day; the blood was to be applied to the doorposts and lintels—not elsewhere. The same principle applies here! In the Christian dispensation, God told us to worship him in song, and this eliminates playing an instrument.

“It Is Used In Our Homes.”

Many would support the use of instrumental music by saying, “It is used in our homes.” We also have lawn mowers, hair dryers and washing machines at home, but does that prove anything? We do many things in our private lives which have no part in the public worship, Mk 7:1-8; 1 Cor 11:20-22.

“It Will Be Found In Heaven.”

Others would advocate the use of instrumental music by saying, “The Book of Revelation speaks of it in heaven,” Rev 5:8; 14:1,2; 15:1,2. First, let us realize that the Book of Revelation is filled with symbolic imagery, and it is a perversion of the text to literalize

those symbols. Revelation describes various colored horses, bowls of wrath, burning incense, four-headed beasts, a sea of glass, etc. Heaven is described in physical terms which we can understand, but we must never

forget it is a spiritual realm. Nothing material will be found there, 1 Cor 15:50. Revelation 14:2 describes the majestic chorus of 144,000 voices as they sing praises to God. The heavenly chorus was characterized by great volume (as the voice of many waters and great thunder), and beautiful harmony (the voice of harpers).

Furthermore, we must understand that Revelation is picturing a different realm or dispensation. Those who lived under the Mosaic dispensation will be judged by the Law of Moses. Those of us who live under the Christian dispensation will be judged by the Gospel of Christ. Our focus should be upon what is required of us during this Christian age. Whatever God chooses to do in the future is his business.

“It Is Supported By The Greek.”

Some would defend the use of

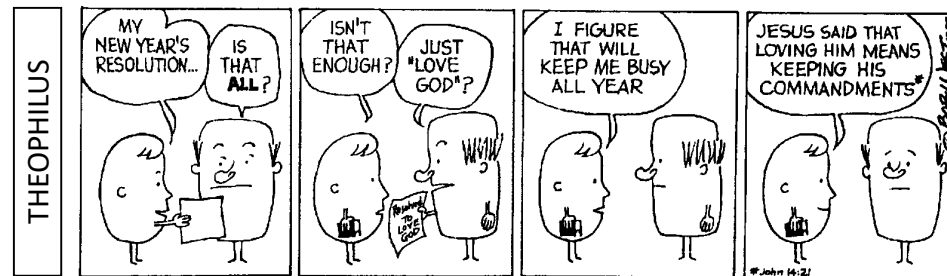
instrumental music by saying, “The use of instrumental music is justified by the Greek.” Such a statement shows a great deal of ignorance concerning the Greek. The expression translated “make melody” in Ephesians 5:19 is from the Greek word psallo. Its root meaning is “to pull, rub, strike, pluck, or vibrate.” In Classical Greek, the word did in fact describe the playing of a mechanical instrument. However, words change over time and in the Koine Greek of the New Testament this word applied exclusively to singing. Forty-seven scholars worked to produce the KJV and 101 scholars translated the ASV. Every time psallo appeared, it was translated “sing,” Rom 15:9; 1 Cor 14:15; Eph 5:19; Jas 5:13. Were all these scholars wrong? Of course

not! It is interesting to note that many of these translators were members of churches which used instrumental music. They could have tried to justify their practice, yet they remained true to their scholarship!

Conclusion

It is essential that we have Bible authority for everything that we do or practice, Col 3:17; 1 Pet 4:11. Which New Testament passage justifies the use of instrumental music? There is none! We must learn “not to go beyond the things that are written,” 1 Cor 4:6 ASV. Christians are commanded to sing, and the instrument we worship God with is the heart! Paul said, “Make melody in your heart to the Lord.”

—via *Guardian of Truth*, 1/18/90



Remember in Prayer

Let's not forget **Ruth Black** (Limestone Health Facility) or **Madelene Britnell** (Valley View, 206); nor **Lois Adams, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples.**