

The Use of the Mechanical Instrument of Music in the Worship Assembly

Greek Word # 5567: "Psalm/Psallo":

"To rub, wipe, handle, touch, to cause to vibrate by touching, and to twang the strings of a musical instrument."

And the paragraph continues.....

In the New Testament it means To sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song, in honor to God.

(Jas v.13, Eph v.19, Ro xv.9)

[Arndt & Gingrich Greek Lexicon](#)

SUMMARY:

If the **Temple in Jerusalem** stands, we can use instruments.

If not, then we cannot.

DETAILS:

***“The organ in the worship of God
is an ensign of Baal.
The Roman Catholic borrowed it from the
Jews.”***

- **Martin Luther** (Martin Luther, McClintock & Strong's Encyclopedia Volume VI, page 762).

Instruments were used in **Temple worship, from 968 BC to 586 BC, and from about 516 BC to 70 AD**. In 70 AD, the Temple was permanently destroyed - see Matthew chapter 24. Chapter 24 is NOT prophecy for the end of the world, only the destruction by Rome of the Temple . It will never be rebuilt. If it ever was rebuilt, then you could worship with instruments, but everything else the Law commands must be used as well: the priestly vestiments, candles, incense, and animal sacrifices. It all goes together and cannot be separated because of God's commands through Moses.

“The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. Then Hezekiah commanded them to offer the burnt offering on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord also began, with the trumpets and with the instruments of David king of Israel . So **all the assembly worshiped**, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.” – 2 Chronicles 29:26-28

The mechanical instrument was obviously used in the Temple for offering praise and not merely an aid to worship.

The Jews did **NOT** use mechanical instruments of music in the **Tabernacle** period which came before the Temple period and used the movable tent.

The Jews did **NOT** use mechanical instruments of music in the **Synagogue** period, which was established during the Babylonian Captivity. (Anytime the Temple was not available, Jews used the Synagogue which was any old building they could find.)

Jews were commanded by the Lord to use instruments **ONLY** in the Temple , in Jerusalem , with Levitical worship.

So instrumental music in worship to God was
"location-oriented", that is,
a Jew could only worship God with an instrument in the
Jerusalem Temple .

Church Music in History and Practice, p.15. By Winford C. Douglas states,

“The **synagogue** music was an adoption **without** musical instruments of the Temple music.”

What this means is that since the Temple was destroyed in 586 BC, the Jews had to use other buildings that were not the Temple so they did not use anything from the Levitical worship forms like instruments, incense, or sacrifices. Those things were commanded **ONLY** for that Temple in Jerusalem . And when they were immersed for the remission of their sins to become Christians as in Acts 2:38, they continued to worship by singing only since the Temple in Jerusalem still remained destroyed.

So the church was a new "type" of Synagogue, in a way. The Jew who became a Christian **KNEW** that instruments were **NOT** to be used in the church since the church is not the Temple , and the Temple was permanently destroyed. That's also why you don't see opposition to instruments in the New Testament. **EVERYBODY** already knew that instruments **ONLY** belonged in the Temple in Jerusalem . That's also why the Jews have never built a Temple in any other part of the world.

God says that the Temple can only be built in Jerusalem because that's the place He picked:

Deuteronomy 12:1-7

1 “These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.

...

5 **“But you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.**

6 **There** you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.

7 And **there** you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

There are a couple good OT citations that support this fact. One is Psalm 137. It was written by an anonymous Levitical singer/player who was captive in Babylon after the Temple had been destroyed. He was being asked by his captors to sing and play the instruments as he had done in Jerusalem in the Temple . It reads:

1 By the rivers of Babylon ,
There we sat down, yea, we wept

When we remembered Zion (the Jerusalem Temple worship)

2 We hung our harps

Upon the willows in the midst of it.

3 For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song,

And those who plundered us requested mirth,

Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

4 How shall we sing the Lord's song

In a foreign land? (without the Levite Temple worship)

5 If I forget you, O **Jerusalem**,

Let my right hand forget its skill!

6 If I do not remember you,

Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth—

If I do not exalt **Jerusalem**

Above my chief joy.

They abandoned all Levite worship practices while in captivity, because God commanded Levite worship practices to be at the **Jerusalem Temple ONLY**, and this author knew that very well. In Ezra 3:10, the Jews returned to Jerusalem, rebuilt the Temple, and worshipped according to the Law once again. Here's another example:

1 Chronicles 25:1

1 Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with **harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals**. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was:

2 Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelai; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied according to the order of the king.

3 Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp to give thanks and to praise the Lord.

4 Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-Ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth.

5 All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to exalt his horn. For God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

6 **All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God.** Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the authority of the king.

7 So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the Lord, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight.

So we see that instrumental music was indeed specific to the Temple in Jerusalem. If the Temple in Jerusalem stands, Jews **MUST** use candles, incense, animal sacrifices, and instruments. In McClintock and Strong Encyclopedia volume 6, p.762, it is stated:

"The instruments were never used in ancient [Tabernacle] worship."

The Jews began to use instruments in the Synagogue in 1815 even though they knew that the instrument belonged only in the Temple in Jerusalem. However, my Conservative Jewish friends say that they don't use instruments **ever**. It is only the liberal Jews called the "Reform Jews" who use instruments. So the "real" Jews (Conservative and Hasidim) do not today use instruments, and they never have, except during the Temple periods. The observant modern Jew still understands that if there's no Temple, there's no instrumental music, incense, or animal sacrifices. If any Jew uses the instrument today in a synagogue, they should understand that they are breaking Levitical worship Law; that is easily proved. But they may not care

about that today since the Jews have been all but forgotten by God since they refuse to accept Jesus as Messiah. They are still waiting for Christ. They have no remission of sins since they cannot worship in the Temple in Jerusalem because the Muslims own the Temple mount in Jerusalem now.

“It was not until **June 14, 1815 in Berlin, Germany** that any Jewish synagogue had the mechanical instrument. And as is pointed out by Tom McLemore, "The worship and organization of the New Testament church was an adaption of the Jewish synagogue worship." The synagogues were overseen by elders. The services consisted in reading from the law, sermons, prayers, singing, and alms-giving.” (<http://mupfc.marshall.edu/~cole8/Sermons/Mechanic.txt>)

Many things that were practiced during the dispensation of the Old Covenant are not included under the New. Circumcision, animal sacrifices, offering of the blood of bulls and goats, burning of incense and observance of the Sabbath are but a few of the things that were approved in the Old Testament that cannot be practiced in the church. If we return to the OT in order to justify the use of musical instruments in our worship today, we can also go there to justify circumcision, animal sacrifices, offering of the blood of bulls and goats, burning of incense and observance of the Sabbath in our worship today. But we do not have authority to practice any of those things today because we are under a different law, the New Covenant given by Jesus Christ:

“BUT NOW He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

8 Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah —

9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt ; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.

*12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” In that He says, **“A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.**” -Hebrews chapter 8*

The words “but now” are extraordinarily important because Paul is stating something like, ok, I have been telling you about all this history and now I am changing my time focus to the present time.

Using instrumental music in Christian worship cannot be considered an aid to singing (and therefore permissible in NT worship) because the instrument produces music that becomes a part of the worship. Since the mechanical instrument adds something to worship, using them is going beyond the Word, and God strictly forbids going beyond His Word. In **Revelation**, a book about the church, you will see a lot of Old Testament Temple imagery used. This imagery has meaning, but it does not mean that the church is authorized to use the mechanical instrument. John was seeing a vision, not reality. These visions were symbols designed to mean prayer, good & evil, ect...

I think that most denominations that use mechanical instrumentation justify their actions using the Old Covenant. But because we are under the New Covenant, we cannot appeal to various practices in the OT as justification for using instrumental music in worship today. All the Jews and Christians in AD 100 knew that, and the Jews still know it today!

If you “feel” or “want” to use an instrument, then I should be able to “feel” or “want” to do a myriad of things to worship God. In other words, who is any man to tell me what I can or cannot do in the worship assembly? As you can probably see, the assembly quickly becomes a "free-for-all" situation. And the Lord is not at all interested in what “we” think He might want. He’s looking for men who will obey Him. Best just to follow the Word of God.

"I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery."

-Charles Spurgeon (famous Baptist preacher)-In commenting on I Corinthians 14:15.

"Musical instruments in celebrating praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the Law. The Papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this..."

-John Calvin (the father of Presbyterianism)

The definitions of the words psallo, and psalm

This information comes from the *Arndt & Gingrich Greek Lexicon*("Dictionary")

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0226039323/quartzhillsschoolA/>

The Arndt & Gingrich Greek Lexicon is the definitive source for the NT Greek scholars today.

All the words are in Greek and Hebrew.

- Word number 5567 Psalm: "To rub, wipe, handle, touch, to cause to vibrate by touching, and to twang the strings of a musical instrument. **In the New Testament it means To sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song, in honor to God. (Jas v.13, Eph v.19, Ro xv.9)"**

- Word number 5568 Psalm: "(Eph v.19; Col iii.16) ...the phrase is used of one who has it in his heart to sing or recite a song of the sort."

"The original meaning of ψάλλω was "pluck", "play" a stringed instrument. This persisted at least to the time of Lucian. In the LXX (250 BC) ψάλλω means to sing whether to the accompaniment of a harp or (as usually) not. This process continued until **ψάλλω in modern greek means to sing exclusively...with no reference to instrumental accompaniment**. Although the NT does not voice opposition to instrumental music, in view of Christian resistance to mystery cults, as well as Pharisaic aversion to musical instruments in worship....it is likely that some such sense as make melody is best here. Those who favor "play" (L-S-J ASouter, Pocket Lexicon '20; JMoffatt transl '13) may be relying too much on the earliest meaning of ψάλλω."

I found an outline on the internet that has answers the most common questions about this topic, including, "The Bible doesn't say we **can't** use instruments", and the like. This outline is at this site:
http://associate.com/library/www.christianlibrary.org/authors/Grady_Scott/instrmnt.htm

WHY DON'T WE USE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP?

INTRODUCTION: We have discussed several things concerning what the Bible teaches about singing. We have learned that God did command us to sing in the worship. We have learned that God has given us some important guidelines concerning the way in which we are to sing. But the question often comes up among visitors to a worship service of the churches of Christ as to why we do not have instruments of music to accompany our singing. We need to know why we do not use the piano or guitar in our worship. Is it just our preference? Or is there some valid reason for rejecting these things.

BODY

I. We need to understand that we can only practice those things which are authorized in the New Testament.

A. Must not go beyond that "which is written" by the inspired men.

1. I Corinthians 4:6-"And these things, brethren,, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."
2. Galatians 1:6-9
3. II John 9-11

B. When God is specific about a command we do not have the right to change his instructions.

1. Genesis 6:14- example of God commanding Noah to build the ark out of gopher wood.
2. When Jesus specified fruit of the vine and bread for the Lord's Supper he didn't have to specify everything else that he would not be pleased in.
3. In the same way, if God specified one type of music and did not authorize another he would not have to specify every other kind of music that he would not be pleased with.

II. Has God specified the kind of music that he wants for his church?

A. Every example of music practiced by Christians was vocal.

1. Matthew 26:30-"...and when they had sung a hymn, they went out unto the Mount of Olives ."
2. Acts 16:25-"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God; and the prisoners heard them."
3. Romans 15:9-"I will sing unto thy name."
4. I Corinthians 14:15-"I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the understanding also."
5. Hebrews 2:12-"Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee."

B. Every command concerning Christians and music was a command to practice vocal music instead of instrumental music.

1. Ephesians 5:19-"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord."
2. Colossians 3:16-"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."
3. The only music commanded in the New Testament is vocal. 4. It is a specific command; therefore it excludes all other kinds of music.

"I have no opposition to the organ in our chapel provided it is neither seen nor heard."

-John Wesley (the father of Methodism)

4. Another point to consider is if the mechanical instrument is allowed, then every member of the church should be playing one, since it is a command to all to worship in the midst of the church, just like all the Levites were commanded to do. They ALL had to do their commanded duty. Worship is not a time to be entertained. It is supposed to be a very reverent time to worship as God commanded.

C. Nowhere in the New Testament does Christ or an inspired man command the use of instruments of music.

1. There is no command for its use in the church, there is no example of it being used by the church, and there is no hint that it was used.
2. If we truly love the Lord the positive command to sing would be sufficient to exclude instrumental music from the worship.

III. Reasons some give for using instrumental in worship.

A. "Instrumental music is just an aid to the worship."

1. An aid is something that does not change the basic command enables one to expedite the command.
2. A songbook does not change the basic command. Even when the songbook is used it doesn't change the command.
3. Instrumental music is different because it changes God's command. If the Lord had commanded us to make music the instrument of music would have been an aid.

B. "The Bible doesn't say not to use it."

1. The Bible doesn't have to specify everything that might ever be declared by God to be wrong.
2. We have already discussed the principle that when God is specific in a certain area he excludes all other options.
3. Some examples.
 - a. Ephesians 5:20

- b. I Corinthians 16:2
- c. Colossians 3:16

C. "The Old Testament commands, authorizes, the use of instrumental music in the worship."

1. Those under the Old Law used instrumental music with the approval of God.
 - a. II Chronicles 29:25-"And he set the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of God the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the Lord by his prophets."
2. But those who appeal to the Old Testament as authority are "missing the boat" because we no longer live under the commands of the Old Law.
 - a. Colossians 2:14,15-"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross."
 - b. Hebrews 10:9-10
 - c. Hebrews 9:15-"And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament..."
 - d. Under the Old Law worshippers burned incense, offered sacrifices, and worshipped in Jerusalem . Would those who appeal to the Old Testament for authority for using instrumental music in worship include these things in their worship?

D. "But isn't instrumental music used in Heaven."

1. Revelation cited.
 - a. Revelation 14:2, 3-"And I heard a voice from heaven, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the' hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."
2. But notice that John didn't say that there were harpers playing in heaven but that it was the VOICE as the voice of harpers harping.
3. None of us can predict what will be in heaven. We only know that God has not chosen to include instrumental music in the worship of Christ's church.

4. Revelation is a type of literature called "Apocalyptic" literature. We must be very careful when making a doctrinal stance from apocalyptic literature. The general rule regarding making a doctrinal stance from apocalyptic literature is:

"One must take everything in the Bible as literal unless the context forces us to understand it as a figure of speech. Except in Revelation, parts of Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and other apocalyptic passages of the O.T, and N.T. In that figurative type language, one must take everything as a figure unless the context forces us to do otherwise. Care must be taken when using passages to create a doctrinal position from Revelation. If the passage or similar passage cannot be found in other parts of the Bible, the Revelation passage should not be used as doctrinal stance."

5. We often forget that Revelation is a *vision* that God is giving John. That means the vision is not *really* happening except in John's mind. The vision has meaning for the year it was written which was AD 96. God never gives us a book willy – nilly and says, "Oh hey, by the way, here's a book I want you to have but you won't need it for three thousand years."

IV. Are we alone in this view? (Background and what some others have believed.)

A. When did Instrumental music begin among believer in Christ?

1. "The organ was introduced into the church by Pope Vitalian I, in about 666 A.D. (American Encyclopedia, Volume 7, p. 112)

B. What different religious leaders have said about instrumental music.

1. Martin Luther (founded the Lutheran church)-"The organ in the worship of God is an ensign of Baal. The Roman Catholic borrowed it from the Jews."

(Martin Luther, McClintock & Strong's Encyclopedia Volume VI, page 762).

2. John Calvin (the father of Presbyterianism)-"Musical instruments in celebrating praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the Law. The Papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this..."

3. John Wesley (the father of Methodism)-"I have no opposition to the organ in our chapel provided it is neither seen nor heard."

4. Charles Spurgeon (famous Baptist preacher)-In commenting on I Corinthians 14:15 he said, "I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery."

5. These men are not quoted to prove anything scripturally. We can only find scriptural proof from God's word. It is important to note that we are not the only ones who have stood against instrumental music. In fact, the instrument caused division and conflict in every church in which it has been introduced.

CONCLUSION: There are many other aspects of this question that we could review. But it is plain that there is no scriptural authority for the use of instrumental music in the worship of Almighty God. When we introduce it into the worship we violate God's will.

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Other articles I found

Instrumental Music, by Ron Boatwright

<http://www.netbiblestudy.net/>

Jesus says in John 4:24, "God is spirit and they that worship Him **must** worship Him in spirit and in truth." Singing has a very definite place in worshipping God "in spirit and in truth". God has commanded each one of us to sing in worship. When people just sit through the worship service and never attempt to sing (unless they can't sing) they are not obeying God. Or when people sit and listen to a choir sing they are not obeying God's command to sing. There is no Biblical authority for a choir in worship. Congregational a cappella singing is the only kind of music divinely authorized by the Lord for Christian worship.

In Colossians 3:16-17 we read, "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. And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.**" In verse 16 we are commanded to sing. In the very next verse we are told, "whatever you do in word or deed, **do all** in the name of the Lord Jesus." Everything we do in religion is to be done "in the name of the Lord Jesus", which means

by His authority. We can certainly sing by the authority of the Lord. But where would we go in the New Testament for authority for instrumental music in the worship? It just isn't there.

In 1 Corinthians 14:15 we read, "I will sing **with the spirit** and I will sing **with the understanding** also." Not only does an instrument not have a heart, but it also does not have a spirit with which to understand. God has spoken in the New Testament concerning the kind of music we must use if we expect to worship Him "in spirit and in truth." Singing is the limit of God's command. God nowhere in the New Testament authorized mechanical instruments of music to be used in worship of the church and to use it is a sin. A lifeless mechanical instrument of music cannot worship.

In Ephesians 5:19 we read, "**Speaking** to yourselves in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.**" Also we read in Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; **teaching, and admonishing** one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, **singing with grace in your hearts** to the Lord." Here we see in our singing, we are to **speak, teach, and admonish** one another. This is what God expects us to do when we sing.

But can a mechanical instrument of music speak, teach, or admonish as God wishes us to do when we sing? No. A mechanical instrument of music cannot accomplish anything God has commanded when we sing to Him in worship. Here we see that when we sing, we are "to sing with grace in your hearts" and "make melody in your heart." The melody God wants is to come from the human heart and not from lifeless mechanical musical instruments.

Some people say, "I like instrumental music in worship". It becomes: "I like it, I want it, and I am going to have it." Their feelings take precedence over what God has authorized. They are trusting in themselves. In Proverbs 28:26 we read, "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool."

We read in 2 John 9, "Whosoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God." We cannot use instrumental music by the doctrine or authority of Christ, because Christ has nowhere authorized it. If we add mechanical instruments of music to the worship of God then we have added to God's word. In the closing words of the New Testament we are warned not to add to His word. In Revelation 22:18, "If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book."

If we follow only what God has authorized in our singing in worship, then the whole congregation will sing without mechanical instruments of music. Only then can we be pleasing to God so we can go to Heaven.

Since Christ never authorized mechanical instruments of music in the New Testament to be used in worship of the church, we might ask, when did man "take it upon himself" to start using them in trying to worship God? It is a historical fact according to early church history, no mechanical instruments of music were ever used in church worship until about the year 670 A.D. At this time the church at Rome introduced an organ which produced such disturbances that it was removed. It was not until about 775 A.D. that it was introduced again, but this time it was kept, even with many people objecting. For many years many churches did not accept the instrument.

Even in the 13th century Thomas Aquinas, a noted Catholic scholar, wrote against its use. This showed that even by the 13th century the instrument had not gained full acceptance. Men wanted to have it their way with no regard to what God had specified. This was a departure from the faith and practice of what God has authorized. Why was the use of mechanical instruments of music **totally unknown** in the worship of the church for the first six hundred years after the New Testament was written? The word "A Capella" means singing without instrumental accompaniment. It actually means, "as done in the chapel." For the first 600 years of the church "as done in the chapel" meant singing in worship of the church without instrumental accompaniment. This is the way the early church worshipped. Why shouldn't we also worship this way?

Singing in worship to God is for the purpose of honoring God and teaching one another. Singing is what pleases God. Singing without the instrument of music shows our respect of God and what He says in His word when He specifies our heart as the instrument where the melody is to be made. If we love and respect God we will do everything He says and in the way He says to do it. We will not change, substitute, or add to what He says. We must only sing if we want to worship God "in spirit and in truth."

Is Instrumental Music A Doctrinal Issue? By Ron Boatwright

<http://www.netbiblestudy.net/>

In an effort to try to justify the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship, some say that their use is not a doctrinal issue. God has spoken in the New Testament that singing is the kind of music we must use if we expect to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Singing is the limit of God's command. Some may say, "The Bible does not say not to use mechanical instruments of music in worship." When God gives a command to do something, He does not have to say, but don't do this, and don't do this, etc.

People today may think that it makes no difference if they add mechanical instruments of music in worshipping God. In the Old Testament we have the example of Nadab and Abihu who were also presumptuous in their thinking that it made no difference. In Leviticus 10:1-2 (NIV) we read, "Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered **unauthorized fire** before the Lord, **contrary to His command**. So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them **and they died before the Lord**."

In Leviticus 16:12-13 God commanded, "Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar" of burnt offering to burn the incense in the tabernacle. But Nadab and Abihu decided to do it their own way and get the coals of fire somewhere else. They offered unauthorized fire. They died a horrible death because they did something God did not authorize. Just as Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire, is there any excuse for people to offer unauthorized mechanical instrumental music to the Lord?

The use of mechanical instruments of music in worship does make a difference, because God has never permitted man to devise the plan or means for his worship of God. This is very serious, because we will lose our souls through presumptuous sins just as Nadab and Abihu lost their lives through their presumptuous sins. Judgment Day will be too late to find out that it is wrong to use unauthorized mechanical instruments of music to worship God.

Mechanical Instruments of Music By Ron Boatwright

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Since Christ never authorized mechanical instruments of music in the New Testament to be used in worship of the church, we might ask, when did man "take it upon himself" to start using them in trying to worship God? It is a historical fact according to early church history; no mechanical instruments of music were ever used in church worship until about the year 670 A.D. At this time the church at Rome introduced an organ

which produced such disturbances that it was removed. It was not until about 775 A.D. that it was introduced again, but this time it was kept, even with many people objecting. For many years many churches did not accept the instrument.

Even in the 13th century Thomas Aquinas, a noted Catholic scholar, wrote against its use. This showed that even by the 13th century the instrument had not gained full acceptance. Men wanted to have it their way with no regard to what God had specified. This was a departure from the faith and practice of what God has authorized. Why was the use of mechanical instruments of music **totally unknown** in the worship of the church for the first six hundred years after the New Testament was written? The word "A Capella" means singing without instrumental accompaniment. It actually means, "As done in the chapel." For the first 600 years of the church "as done in the chapel" **meant singing in worship of the church without instrumental accompaniment**. This is the way the early church worshipped. Why shouldn't we also worship this way?

Singing in worship to God is for the purpose of honoring God and teaching one another. Singing is what pleases God. Singing without the instrument of music shows our respect of God and what He says in His word when He specifies our heart as the instrument where the melody is to be made. If we love and respect God we will do everything He says and in the way He says to do it. We will not change, substitute, or add to what He says. We must only sing if we want to worship God "in spirit and in truth."

"Authority, Authority, Authority!"

Why do you church of Christ-ers always talk about authority!!!? Well, that's because no man has the right to change what God has already made right. On whose authority do you do what YOU do at "your" church? If the Bible is THE authority in Christendom, who gave you the authority to do whatever you want to in worship? Why not just stop fighting Jesus and what He wants you to do? The churches of Christ are the ONLY church in the world that teaches exactly what the Bible teaches. That's bigger than you, me, and the whole universe. I just choose to give up the stubbornness and do what God says. As Jesus told Paul, it is *hard for thee to kick against the pricks*. It is really hard to resist and fight against God, . *"And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."*

Alleged "Legalism"

Chapter 10 from, "Piloting the Strait" by Dave Miller

Also fueling the cry for change are the voices which ridicule and condemn brethren who insist upon sensitivity to truth. These voices have gradually become louder and more numerous. They brand as "legalistic" and "fundamentalist" those who refuse to capitulate to their lax and open attitude toward the "strait and narrow." In many quarters of the brotherhood one is eyed with suspicion if he becomes too vocal in stressing to Christians the need to conform strictly to the will of God in all matters of faith and practice. He is set aside as an immature and pharisaical misfit who has simply never grown to the point of grasping the true spirit of Jesus. He is a "negative" and "brutal demagogue." He is a "legalist."

What precisely is “legalism”? Is “legalism” to be equated with too much concern for obedience? [\[1\]](#) Is “legalism” equivalent to ardent determination to keep God’s commandments? One who possesses such a view would naturally tend to gloss over “details” of New Testament teaching, relegating to the realm of minimal importance various matters which he deems are not “weightier matters of the law.” In the words of one rather permissive preacher, “We don’t sweat the small stuff.”

“Legalism”, in its negative classical usage, entails trusting one’s own goodness. Within the negative usage definition, focus is incorrectly upon one’s **attitude** about his own person and practice— not upon the **propriety** of the practices themselves. God has always **condemned** the person who is proud of his obedient actions and who expects to receive God’s grace on the basis of those actions (Luke 18:9ff; 17:10; Rom. 9:31ff). But He has always **commended** the person who maintains absolute fidelity to the specifics of His commands (John 14:15; Heb. 5:9). The difference between the former and the latter is the **attitude of the individual**— a factor which only God is in a position to perceive (Luke 6:8). How presumptuous it is for some to denounce another who exhibits detailed loyalty to God’s words – as if they are able to know his heart and read his mind!

One generally thinks of the Pharisees as the classic example of “legalism”. But how so? **1. They were guilty of hypocrisy.** They pretended to be devoted and went to great lengths to appear righteous, but they did not actually follow through with genuine, loving *correct* obedience to God (Matt. 23:4-7, 25-28). **2. They gave attention to some biblical matters but neglected others of greater importance** (Matt 23:23-24). **3. They misinterpreted Mosaic law** (Matt. 5:17-48) and even went about binding and enforcing their fallacious interpretations, elevating these human traditions (Called the *Mishna* and the *Talmud*), laws, and doctrines to the level of Scripture (Matt. 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13). With these errors in mind, notice that “legalism” **does not** have to do with fervent attention to fulfilling the “letter of the law”.

The Pharisees were not condemned because they were too zealous about strict obedience to God’s will. They were condemned because “they say, and do not” (Matt. 23:2) They were guilty of hypocrisy. In short, the definition (or synonym) of first century Pharasaical “legalism” is *hypocrisy*.

In contrast, our God has **always** been vitally concerned that those who wish to be pleasing to Him give great care to **obey the details and particulars** of His instructions (for example, Lev. 10:1-3; II Sam. 6:1-7; I Chron. 15:12, 13). Jesus even equated this crucial sensitivity to obedience with love (John 14:15; 15:14). Many who possess a flippant, blasé attitude toward rigid obedience think that they are avoiding a “legalistic” syndrome, when they are actually demonstrating lax, weak spirituality and **unfaithfulness**.

“Faithfulness” is by definition obedient trust or loyal compliance with the stipulations of God’s will (James 2:17-26). “Righteousness” is by definition, **right doing** (Acts 10:34, 35; I John 3:7). **Abraham** understood this (Gen. 26:5; Heb. 11:8); **Moses** understood this (Deut. 4:2; 6:17; 11:8, 13, 22, 27-28); **Joshua** understood this (Josh. 23:6, 11; 24:14-15); **John** understood this (I John 5:3); **Paul** understood this (Rom. 6:16).

In reality, outcries of “legalism” serves as a convenient smoke screen to justify departure from the faith and to cloak liberal innovation in the church of our Lord. No doubt there are hypocrites in our ranks and those with critical hearts whose demands for conformity rise out of self-righteous arrogance. But the **major** threat confronting the people of God today is the perennial problem of humanity: a stubborn, rebellious propensity for apostasy and unwillingness to submit humbly to God’s guidelines (Gen. 4:7; I Sam. 15:22-23; Eccl. 12:13; Micah 6:8; Matt. 7:13-14; Rom. 3:10-12; 6:16; 10:21; II Thess. 1:8)

Sure, we must avoid trusting in our own self-righteous goodness, “legalism”. But who would have imagined the day could come when God’s demand for obedience would be circumvented and set aside as **legalism**? These brethren are opting for “**illegalism**”! let us not mistake “legalism” for loving obedience to the will of God in every facet of our lives. Let us carefully “do all those things which are commanded” (Luke

17:10), recalling Jesus' words: "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Let's stake our lives upon the grace of God, but then let's love him, remembering that "This is love for God: that we keep his commandments" (1 John 5:3).

[1] Typical of the widespread misconception that "legalism" has to do with giving too much attention to complete obedience is the illustration given by Paul Faulkner in a lecture entitled "Getting Ahead: Taking Your Family With You" at the 1992 Freed-Hardeman University Lectureship: *"I found out when you're dialing numbers...you have to dial about eighteen number to get started, and then you have to dial eighteen more- you know what I'm talking about" and if you miss, what? If you miss ONE-just ONE- you say ugly things to yourself, don't you? Because you know you blew it again. It's amazing how **legalistic** the telephone company is."*

In Summary notice that: (My words)

1. The word "legalism" is not being used properly today whatsoever.
 2. 1st Century "legalism" was applied to the Pharisees, and it meant "hypocrisy" ONLY.
 3. The **proper** definition of 21st Century "legalism" is, obedient trust or loyal compliance with the (ALL) stipulations of God's will (James 2:17-26) without relying on one's own goodness to get to heaven.
 4. It is interesting to note that the word "faith" in the Bible is always an action word, a verb instead of a noun. Godly faith ALWAYS requires thought, study, and **action**.
 5. Let's not find ourselves stubbornly refusing to do what God clearly commands us to do to be saved, which is; Hear & be taught correctly, Believe & develop Faith, Repent, Confess, and BE BAPTISED, and remain a member of the church of Christ until death. Be Baptized for exactly what God says to be Baptized for – the remission of sins to receive the Holy Spirit, to be saved.
 6. If you are stubbornly refusing to obey God, guess what! YOU are the Pharisaical legalist because you "say and do not".
 7. P. 407. This unfaithfulness and stubbornness is also a leftover world-view from the 1960's. The Israelites at Mt. Sinai suffered from this attitude as well. Exodus 32:25 states they were naked, broken loose, unrestrained, and out of control. To be in Christ, one must continue in God's Word (John viii.31). To get to heaven a Christian is required to live a life of obedience to the will of Christ. God gives liberty to those who are **doers of the word, not hearers only** (James 1:22).
 8. Can we read Acts 2:38 as this alternate reading: *"And Peter said to them. There's nothing you can do! Salvation does not depend on human activity. God's grace saves you without any action on your part!"*?
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“...We give ourselves credit for having the ability to operate sensibly and communicate with one another intelligibly. Yet we turn right around and imply

that the God of heaven, the one who is infinitely wiser and more capable than humans, is incapable of making His will known to humanity in a clear and understandable fashion! When we come to the Bible, we suddenly do an about face and insist that we can't be sure what God's will is, we can't be dogmatic on doctrine, we must allow for differing opinions on what is spiritually right and wrong!..." Dave Miller, *Piloting The Strait*. p. 159.

Resources

http://associate.com/library/www.christianlibrary.org/authors/Grady_Scott/instrmnt.htm

<http://www.christianlibrary.org/>

This website, [The Christian Courier](http://www.christiancourier.com), is loaded with articles on the mechanical instrument of music. You can also look up anything else in the search bar.

<http://www.christiancourier.com/search?q=musical+instruments>

Are You Worshipping God In Spirit And In Truth? This is a really good study, too. The author states, "go to Lessons # 17-20 I have four of the lessons entitled "Singing In Worship".

<http://www.netbiblestudy.net/worship/>

We get ONE CHANCE at heaven! Are you sure of what you think you know? How do you know if you don't study your Bible?

There's [over 40,000 denominations](#) in existence today.

Which one is right? You can know!!

"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him:

the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

***For I have not spoken of myself;
but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say,
and what I should speak.***

***And I know that his commandment is life everlasting:
whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."***

[John 12:48-50](#)

***Christ is going to judge each
one of us
using the Bible as His guide.
Here's how to come out on the
right side...***

BECOME A FIRST-CENTURY CHRISTIAN TODAY!!!

IT IS CALLED "BEING BORN AGAIN"

IT IS CALLED "OBEYING THE GOSPEL"

**God wrote the Entire Bible to showcase the
preaching of His Gospel in Acts chapter two!**

Salvation is:

being "Born Again", and also called "Obeying The Gospel"

It is a pattern found eight times in Acts. He left us a pattern in Acts so
that we can be assured we've "obeyed" correctly in all things!

YOU CAN IMITATE THIS PATTERN TODAY!

1. One must be taught correctly (Romans 10:17, Matt 7:24-27)
2. One must then believe correctly based on what he's been taught (Heb 11:6, Mark 16:15-16)
3. One must develop correct faith from the believing (Heb 11:6)
4. One must repent (develop **Godly sorrow** for his sin, and promise to fight sin for the rest of his life) (2 Corinthians 7:10, Acts 2:38, 17:30, Luke 13:3)

5. One must confess, also called making your good confession right before being immersed. (Matt 10:32-33, Acts 8:36-37, Romans 10:9)
6. One must be Baptized (Immersed)- as an adult - for **EXACTLY** what the Bible says to be Baptized for, which is for remission of sin, to receive the Holy Spirit, required to be saved. Thats right! Only baptism in Jesus' name forgives sin. ***There is no forgiveness outside baptism for the exactly correct reason! If you've only believed, or been baptized as an outward sign of an inward change, or just because Christ did it, then sadly you are not Scripturally "Born Again". Statements you may have heard from the pulpit at your church regarding "Jesus died for you and me", "'Jesus loves you!", and "God shed his blood that all can be saved", and the like are **INCOMPLETE SCRIPTURAL IDEAS** and are meaningless unless you understand the rest of the section you are reading!! (Acts 2:38, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 22:16, 1 Peter 3:20-21, Acts 10:48, John 3:5, Luke 7:30, Read 2 Cor. 5:17 along with Gal. 3:27. Romans 6:3-5, Acts 8:36-38, Mark 1:9-10, John 3:23. Matt 28:19, Isaiah 28:9, **not for infants: Matt 18:3, Mark 10:13-15, Ezekiel 18:20, Romans 14:12).**
7. One must live the rest of his life a Christian and cannot "fall away" like Demas did. (Demas listed as Fellow Worker with Paul - Philemon 24, listed with the Christians in Col. 4:14, but then leaves the faith in 2 Tim. 4:10. **Must remain faithful:** Rev. 2:10) Also see Galatians 5:4, Romans 11. That also means obeying Hebrews 10:25 which states we must be in good standing at the Lord's church - the church of Christ and be in attendance at all times. The Head (Jesus) cannot be separated from the Body (the church which is YOU!) and survive! If you love Him, you will always desire to be near His Flock! Do NOT forsake the assembling of yourselves!

Isn't *that* beautiful?

God made His way very clear.

All we have to do is follow the pattern

in the seven steps listed above!!

Refusing to obey doesn't change God's Word

to match what you think it means.

It stands forever and it will judge you and I on the **Great Day!**

So here's the pattern:

Be taught the **right truth** and develop Belief/Faith > Repent > Confess > **Be Immersed** =
SALVATION!

The world teaches the following incorrect pattern....

They change God's timeline and so teach a different Gospel:

Belief/Faith > Repent > Confess > **SALVATION** > **Be Immersed. WRONG!!!**

*****ABOUT GRACE*****

Don't be tricked!

Faith and Grace **does not** automatically cover the Earth and
save everyone like the denominational preachers say!

Biblical "**grace**" **does not apply** to the entire world so that everyone goes to heaven just because they did more good than bad, or because they "believe" in God. God's Grace is ONLY for those who have ***obeyed the Gospel***, and fall short.

- Any time you see the phrase "**saved by grace, not by works**", be rest assured that the author is talking about works that are from the Old Testament, or works that people can do in order to brag about them to God. Those are the "works" we're not "saved" by.
- The New Testament is filled with God's requests of **His works of grace** that we must comply with (Softening our hearts to hear the right Gospel preached, Believing correctly and developing Faith, Repenting from sin, Confessing Christ, and being Baptised for the remission of our sins to be saved). Man could NEVER come up with the way to God's heaven. That's why these steps to salvation are not in the "men's works" category. They are God's works, God's ideas, and we are required by command to obey each and every one.
- The worldly tradition of "more good than bad" spiritual ideology comes from the **Hindi religion**, not from the Bible.
- Being "born again" (Baptised for the biblical reason) is still a work, but **it's God's work**, not something that man came up with. You still have to obey and do what God commands for the EXACT reasons God gives.

God's covenant laws are "**unilateral**", **not bilateral** and they always have been. That means that God gives a covenant to man and man has the choice to obey or not. We do not have the right to "bargain" with God in the giving of His laws.

The law of Christ is still as effective as when it was first delivered. So just because you might not believe what the Bible says doesn't excuse you from being Judged by the Word.

Dear friend, if you'd allow me to, I would *beg* you to read more about how to be on God's side in this world, and into the next.

Our dear Savior built but one church. It is still in existence today.

Read More Here

This is my prayer today:

Holy Father, I praise you for another day. I praise you for our daily bread, the Word of God. You tell us in your Word that men shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth from the mouth of God. O Lord, please help our understanding to increase in the Word. Please help me to grow as the days go by to bring honor and glory to your name. I love you Lord with all my heart, soul, and mind, and I do so want to please you in my thoughts and actions because I know I will be judged by them on the Great Day.

Help me, O Lord, to help others by expounding on your Word and explaining what You have done for me in my life through the Word. I do pray for doors of opportunity to be opened to me today. I know that you know the names of those who have read this page.

I praise you Lord, with my whole heart and rejoice to know you personally which You say is by obeying your New Law. I praise you for my health today and I pray that you will guide my footsteps daily. Please give us safety today and watch over me and my loved ones so that I may repent before it is everlastingly too late. In Jesus name I pray, AMEN.

Read More Here