

Worshiping God By Music



Col.3:17



**And whatever you do
in word or deed,
do all in the name
of the Lord Jesus**

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Attempts To Justify Instrumental Music In Worship:



“We don’t find a passage which expressly forbids it. As long as we don’t find a passage that expressly forbids it, we can do it with God’s approval. God doesn’t tell us not to do it, therefore we can do it.”

⇒ When God tells us what He wants in a particular area, that’s the extent of permission which we have to act on, He doesn’t have to expressly forbid something in that same category

Lev.10:1-2 - “which He had not commanded them”

Lev.16:12

Heb.7:11-14

Why couldn’t Jesus be a priest under the Law of Moses?

Answer: Moses’ silence (vs.14)

“a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing”

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- ⇒ When God tells us what He wants in a particular area, that’s the extent of permission which we have to act on, He doesn’t have to expressly forbid something in that same category
- ⇒ God hasn’t left us without guidance. He authorized vocal music and spoke nothing concerning the use of instruments therefore we are not authorized to use them

2Cor.5:7 / Rom.10:17

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If we respect God’s authority, we must ask two questions...

⇒ Does God condemn it, forbid it?

Ex.12:5

⇒ Does God approve of it, permit it?

1Pet.4:11

Where is the N.T. passage which authorizes the use of mechanical instruments of music in our worship? (_____)

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“O.T. scriptures authorize the use of instruments in our worship today. David used instruments thus we can also.”

Fact that people look to the O.T. to justify their use of instruments indicates two things...

- ⇒ They recognize a need for authority
- ⇒ They can't find authority for it in the New Testament

Ps.150 - Jewish system: mechanical instruments

Jewish system - burning incense, Sabbath keeping, animal sacrifice, military campaigns, killing of religious enemies

Deut.7:2-5; 13:6-18

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From Galatians we learn, if we look to the Old Testament for our authority in one area...

- ⇒ **Gal.5:3** - we are obligated to keep it all, to keep all of the Law of Moses
- ⇒ **Gal.1:6-9** - we pervert the Gospel and remove selves or cut ourselves off from God
- ⇒ **Gal.5:1-3** - we fall from grace

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The fact that God may have approved of something under the Jewish system doesn't mean He approves of that same thing today...

- ⇒ **Deut.5:1-3** - the Law was given to the Jewish Nation
- ⇒ **Col.2:14** - the Law was nailed to the cross
- ⇒ **Heb.1:1-2** - God doesn't speak to us today through Moses but through Jesus

Old (Ps.150:3 - play) **vs.** **New** (Eph.5:19 - sing)

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Where is the N.T. passage which authorizes the use of mechanical instruments of music in our worship? (_____)

Some argue that Psalms weren't part of the Old Law and Psalms gives us authority for instruments today...

- ⇒ **Jews called Psalms the Law (Jn.12:34 / Ps.110:4)**
- ⇒ **Jesus called Psalms the Law (Jn.10:34 / Ps.82:6)
(Jn.15:25 / Ps.35:19)**
- ⇒ **Paul called Psalms the Law (Rom.3:10-19 / Ps.14:1-3)**

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“In Eph.5:19, the words ‘making melody’ are translated from the Greek word ‘psallo’ and this word means ‘to sing with musical accompaniment’.”

Thayer’s on psallo - “in the New Testament to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song, James 5:13”

- ⇒ **Abbot & Smith - in the N.T., to sing a hymn, sing praise**
- ⇒ **Moulton & Milligan - as used in the N.T., sing a hymn**
- ⇒ **Harper’s Lexicon - in the N.T. to sing praises**
- ⇒ **Robinson’s Lexicon - in the N.T., a psalm, a song in praise of God**
- ⇒ **Green’s Lexicon - in the N.T., to sing praises**

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- ⇒ **A.T. Robertson, Baptist Greek Scholar - The word originally meant to play on a stringed instrument but it comes to be used also for singing with the voice and heart (Eph.5:19, 1Cor.14:15), making melody with the heart also to the Lord**

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- ⇒ **McClintock & Strong** - The Greek word “psallo” is applied among the Greeks of modern times exclusively to sacred music, which in the Eastern Church has never been any other than vocal, instrumental music being unknown in that church, as it was in the primitive church

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Scriptures where “psallo” is used...

Rom 15:9 - “*and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, Therefore I will give praise to Thee among the Gentiles, And I will **sing (psallo)** to Thy name.*”

1Cor 14:15 - “*What is the outcome then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall **sing (psallo)** with the spirit and I shall **sing (psallo)** with the mind also*”

Eph 5:19 - “*speaking to one another in **psalms (psalmos)** and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and **making melody (psallo)** with your heart to the Lord*”

James 5:13 - “*Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him **sing (psallo)** praises*”

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“In Eph.5:19, the words ‘making melody’ are translated from the Greek word ‘psallo’ and this word means ‘to sing with musical accompaniment’.”

Consequences: If “psallo” includes a mechanical instrument, if it means “to sing and play an instrument” ...

- ⇒ **No choice but to use an instrument**
- ⇒ **Each individual would have to play their own instrument**
- ⇒ **Anytime we wanted to break out in a song of praise to God, we would need to use our instrument as we sang**

Where is the New Testament passage which authorizes the use of mechanical instruments of music in our worship? (_____)

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Why oppose instrumental music
in worship?



- ⇒ **Rev.22:18-19 - Principle: don't add to or take away from the Word of God**
- ⇒ **Instrumental Music is not authorized in the N.T. thus it is an addition to God's Word, therefore IT IS SIN!**

**INSTRUMENTAL
MUSIC IN WORSHIP**

