

Worshiping God By Music



John 4:24



God is a spirit
and those who worship
Him must worship in
spirit and in truth

TRUTH?

John 17:17 - "Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth"

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

Worshiping God By Music



Attempts To Justify Instrumental Music In Worship:



“There will be instruments in Heaven because the book of Revelation mentions harps, therefore, we can use them in our worship today.” (Rev.5:8; 15:2; 14:2)

Can't prove there will be literal physical instruments in Heaven

- ⇒ Language of Revelation is highly symbolic and figurative
- ⇒ Heaven is a spiritual place, not physical (**1Cor.15:50; Mt.22:30**)
- ⇒ **Rev.5:8** - harps & bowls are said to be prayers of saints; harps are symbolic of praise
- ⇒ **Rev.15:2** - “I saw as it were...”; not necessarily a literal sea of glass or literal harps
- ⇒ **Rev.14:2** - the voice heard was like the sound of many water, loud thunder, and harpists playing

Worshiping God By Music



Attempts To Justify Instrumental Music In Worship:



“There will be instruments in Heaven because the book of Revelation mentions harps, therefore, we can use them in our worship today.”

Each passage deals with a heavenly scene and is not a reference to our worship here while living on earth

- ⇒ **To prove a thing is in Heaven doesn't prove that it ought to be in our worship today**
- ⇒ **If we could prove instrumental music belongs in Heaven, this wouldn't prove they belong in the worship of the church today**
- ⇒ **Rev.5:8; 8:3 - Do these passages give authority for burning incense in our worship today?**

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

Worshiping God By Music



Attempts To Justify Instrumental Music In Worship:



“In 1Cor.14:7-9 Paul mentions a harp, pipe, and trumpet therefore we can use instruments in our worship today.”

- ⇒ Paul uses a harp, pipe, and trumpet to illustrate his point concerning the spiritual gift of tongues
- ⇒ Paul doesn't refer to these instruments as being used in the worship of the church
- ⇒ **1Cor.14:1-6** - “tongues” are meaningless if there is no interpreter because people wouldn't understand what was being said just as a harp, pipe, and trumpet are useless as instruments if they don't produce a clear sound that can be recognized

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

Worshiping God By Music



Attempts To Justify Instrumental Music In Worship:



“The instrument is just an aid to my singing and God approves of or authorizes aids.”

- ⇒ The instrument is not an aid, it is *another kind of music*
- ⇒ When God specifies something in a certain category, if we add something else in that same category it is an addition or perversion
- ⇒ **Ex.25:10-15; 2Sam.6:2-6** - a new cart, an aid or addition? (addition because it is *another kind of transportation*)
- ⇒ **Gen.6:14** - straight piece of oak for support, aid or addition?
- ⇒ An instrument is an “addition” not an “aid !!!

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

Worshiping God By Music



Attempts To Justify Instrumental Music In Worship:



“God gave me a talent to use an instrument so I need to use it in worship to Him.”

- ⇒ **Most all of us have a talent(s) but this doesn't necessarily mean that we ought to use these in worship to God**
- ⇒ **Gen.4:1-5; Heb.11:4; Rom.10:17 - Cain had a talent but there was something about his sacrifice that was unacceptable as part of the worship which God had requested**
- ⇒ **It is good and right to use the talents God blesses us with but only in the setting or circumstances which He permits**

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

Worshiping God By Music



Attempts To Justify Instrumental Music In Worship:



“It sounds so beautiful and so much better with an instrument, it makes me feel good.”

- ⇒ **This is man’s opinion**
- ⇒ **Man’s opinion means nothing if it leads to a violation of Biblical authority**
- ⇒ **It’s an appeal to human emotion rather than to God’s Word**
- ⇒ **God sees or hears no beauty in the sounds of disobedience (1Sam.15:1-21)**

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

Worshiping God By Music



Attempts To Justify Instrumental Music In Worship:



“What harm is there in using them?”

- ⇒ **Looking at things from human standpoint, trusting in man’s wisdom**
- ⇒ **2Chron.26:14-23 - King Uzziah & offering incense**
- ⇒ **Ex.25:10-15 / 2Sam.6:1-7 - transporting the Ark**
- ⇒ **Mt.7:21-23**
- ⇒ **Prov.14:12**

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

Worshiping God By Music



Attempts To Justify Instrumental Music In Worship:



“It’s a liberty, we can worship God either with or without instruments, either is acceptable to God.”

- ⇒ **Liberty - something God approves of yet isn’t commanded, doesn’t require it to be done**
- ⇒ **It can’t be a liberty because it isn’t given approval by God**
- ⇒ **Instruments aren’t commanded, permitted, or authorized**
- ⇒ **1Jn.3:4 - sin is a transgression of the Word, a “going beyond”**

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

Worshiping God By Music



Note the following scriptures and check “one” of the blanks...

(Eph.5:19; Col.3:16; Heb.13:15;
Js.5:13; Acts 16:25)



In the New Testament God commands us to:

- sing**
- play an instrument**
- sing and play**
- sing or play**
- make music**

Conclusion: God didn't give us a choice to either sing or play, sing and play, etc. He specified for us to worship Him by singing and we are not free to add to His Word

Worshiping God By Music



Why oppose instrumental music
in worship?



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

- ⇒ What difference does it make whether we worship God with instruments or not?
- ⇒ **One is in the New Testament and one isn't!**

