

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

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WHY BE A CHRISTIAN? (No. 2)

In our study last week we showed from the Scriptures what a sinner must do in order to become a Christian. We showed he must believe, repent of his sins, confess his faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and be baptized in water. At that point the Lord adds him to the church. (See Acts 2:47). God expects a child of God to be faithful in serving him until death. (See Rev. 2:7, 10)

WHY SHOULD A PERSON BE A CHRISTIAN?

I. TO BE SAVED! FROM WHAT?

A. From our past sins! All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (See Rom. 3:23). Romans 6:23 says: **"For the wages of sin is death..."** (Also see Rom. 6:17-18; Col. 1:13-14).

B. From the fear of death – if we are faithful to the Lord. (See 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Matt. 10:28; Phil. 1:21).

C. Hell! (See Mark 9:43; Rev. 21:8; Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:10).

Why believe in hell?

1. God says so.
2. Christ taught it.
3. Redemption implies it.
4. Heaven suggest it.

5. Why a judgment if there is not hell?

D. To be saved eternally.

(See Eph. 5:23-27; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Hebrews 5:8-9).

II. TO ENJOY SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

A. All spiritual blessings are "in Christ". (See Eph. 1:3). Here are some of those blessings:

1. Forgiveness of sins. (See Eph. 1:7).
2. Redemption. (See Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14)
3. Life. (See 1 Jno. 5:11)
4. Peace. (See Phil. 4:7).
5. Holy Spirit. (See Acts 2:38; 5:32).
6. Completeness. (See Col. 2:10).
7. Inheritance. (See Eph. 1:11; Acts 20:32).

B. One must be baptized into Christ in order to receive these spiritual blessings. (See Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:3-4; Mk. 16:16, etc.)

C. When one is in God's family he is an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ. (See Romans 8:14-17; Gal. 4:7).

(To be continued).

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Editorial...

WHY WE SING AND DO NOT PLAY IN WORSHIP

(NO. 13)

Let us now continue our examination of some arguments (made in an effort to justify *playing* in the public worship assemblies in the church) in light of God's truth.

ARGUMENTS MADE IN AN EFFORT TO JUSTIFY MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP.

Argument 21- "*The Greek word 'psallo' (translated 'melody') and 'psalmos' (translated 'psalms') authorize the playing of mechanical instruments of music in the assembly worship of Christians today.*"

NOTE: Let us resume our study of this argument with a few additional thoughts.

Reply:

11. Some miscellaneous observations about "*psallo*".

A. The word "*psallo*" is found five times in the New Testament. It is translated "*sing*" three times, "*sing psalms*" once,

and "*making melody*" once. The passages they are found in are: Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19 and James 5:13.

B. If "*psallo*" means to "to sing and play", (if it includes the mechanical instrument), then the mechanical instrument in worship is not merely "an aid", "an expedient" or "a preference" - no indeed, *it is an absolute essential* and we can't obey God without using it! Do you really believe that "*psallo*" includes the mechanical musical instrument?

C. All generally accepted English translations translate "*psallo*" (and/or "*psalmos*", "*psalms*", etc.) (in Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19) "*sing*", "*sing praise*", "*sing psalms*" or "*make* (ing) *melody*". NOTE: The reason they did that was because those are the meanings of the words.

D. If "*psallo*" (& "*psalmos*") includes the mechanical instruments of music, the 47 Greek and Hebrew scholars who gave us the King James Version (in 1611) and the 101 scholars who gave us the American Standard Version (in 1901) were wrong by not so translating them.

E. If "*psallo*" includes the mechanical instruments of music, the Greek lexicographers such as Thayer, Abbott, Bagster, Strong, Robinson, Greenfield, Sophocles, Green, Vine, etc. are wrong when they say that *in the New Testament* it means *to sing*.

F. If "*psallo*" includes the mechanical instrument of music, our English Bibles are wrong! They are false! Thus they

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are unreliable! QUESTION: Why don't those who believe that "psallo" includes the mechanical instrument, discard their Bibles?

G. If "psallo" means "to sing and play", every Christian is commanded to play as well as sing, because every Christian is commanded to "psallo". (See Eph. 5:19).

12. Psalms 18:49 says: "Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name." NOTE: "Sing praises" is from "psallo" in the Septuagint (Greek Version of the Old Testament Scriptures. When this passage is translated into English in Rom. 15:9 ("psallo" is translated "sing") it says: "And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is, written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name." FURTHER NOTE: Isn't it strange that "psallo" is translated "sing" if it means "to sing and play"?

13. On March 4, 1965 I wrote a letter to the Greek Orthodox Church, 10 East 79th St., New York 21, New York in which I asked some questions. One of the questions was: "What does the word 'PSALLO' mean as used in the following passages: Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19 and James 5:13?" The reply was: "The word 'Psallo' means to chant or to sing in praise of. It is used in the latter meaning in the biblical passages to which you refer." The reply letter was dated March 12, 1965 and was signed by "Arthur Dore, Director, Department of Press and Information".

In this same letter Arthur Dore also said: "Traditionally the Greek Orthodox Church in the old country has never used mechanical musical instruments. Today, however, in American and in modern centers, many churches use the organ." NOTE: Isn't it interesting that "in the old country" where most of the people would speak the Greek language that the Greek Orthodox Church would understand that the Greek word "psallo" means "to sing"? Obviously they did not understand it to include the mechanical musical instrument.

Argument 22- "When Jesus told the rich young ruler to 'keep the commandments', he brought the command to play on mechanical instruments of music over into the New Testament. (See Matthew 19: 16-26; Psalms 33:2-3; 150:3-5).

Reply:

1. This argument is merely assumed and asserted. There is no Scriptural proof given. The rich young ruler was still living under and during the Old Testament dispensation. The law of Moses was still in effect. It was not abrogated until Jesus died on the cross. (See Col. 2:14-17; Rom. 7:1-7; Heb. 9:15-17; 10:9).

2. If the commandment "to play" is brought over into (and thus became a part of) the New Testament, it is absolutely essential that every Christian play on a mechanical instrument of music in worship unto God. QUESTION: Do you believe that God commands every Christian to play a mechanical instrument of music in worship unto Him? Preposterous?

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3. If the above argument proves that Christ brought the command to play over into the New Testament, it would also prove that he brought the following commandments over into (and they became a part of) the New Testament.

A. Offer animal sacrifice. Psalms 118:27 says: "'...bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar.'" QUESTION: Was this commandment brought over? What about it?

B. Circumcise all male children on the eight day. Lev. 12:3 says: "And in the eighth day the flesh of the foreskin shall be circumcised." QUESTION: Was circumcision brought over into the New Testament? Of course not!

C. Make an altar to burn incense. Exo. 30:1 says: "And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon..." QUESTION: Was this commandment brought over into the New Testament? Of course not!

D. Don't sow your vineyard with divers seeds. Deut. 22:9 says: "Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds..." QUESTION: Was this command brought over into the New Testament? Believe it, who can?

E. Don't plow with an ox and an ass together. Deut. 22:10 says: "Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together." QUESTION: Was that command brought over into the New Testament? Is it sinful to plow with an ox and ass together? No! *Not brought over!*

F. "Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee."(Deut. 5:12). QUESTION: Was this command brought over into the New Testament? Must we keep it today? No! A thousand times no!

4. There is absolutely no Scriptural proof that the command to play on mechanical instruments of music was brought over into the New Testament!

(To be continued)

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God can only stand with us as we stand fast in the faith.

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* * * * *

A true friend is one who knows our weaknesses as well as our strengths and still loves us.

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