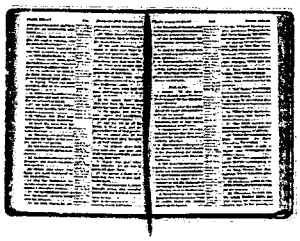
THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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WHAT A LOST SOUL DISCOVERED IN HADES

Please read Luke 16:19-31 very carefully and you will see that it deals with the "intermediate" state of the dead. By this I mean the state of the dead after death while awaiting the resurrection and the judgment.

Speaking of the rich man, Jesus said: **"And in hell** (NKJV, ASV, NASV, etc. say **"Hades"** - ed) **he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."** (v. 23). In this account we have some things mentioned that the rich man discovered in Hades, i.e., in "the unseen world" acc. YOUNG'S Analytical Concordance to the Bible.

1. THE RICH MAN DISCOVERED THAT ONE IS CONSCIOUS AFTER DEATH! An hoest person will not deny that **"He lift up his eyes being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom..."** (Luke 16:23-24). NOTE: The rich man could hear, see, feel and speak. Yes, he was conscious after death! No "soul sleeping" after death in Hades! No annihilation at death; no ceasing to exist at death!

2. THE RICH MAN LEARNED THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO PRAY! Although he asked Abraham to have mercy unto him, and send Lazarus, **"that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame"**, his request was denied. (See Luke 16: 24-26). Likewise his request to send Lazarus back to his father's house was denied. (See Luke 16:27-31).

3. THE RICH MAN LEARNED THAT THE TIME TO HELP OTHERS WAS OVER. His request to Abraham to send Lazarus back to his father's house to testify unto his five brothers lest **"they also come into this place of torment"** was denied. (See verses 27-31). It was now too late to help others.

4. THE RICH MAN LEARNED THAT HE WAS TORMENTED IN HADES ALTHOUGH HE LIVED IN LUXURY (RECEIVED HIS GOOD THINGS) WHILE HE WAS ON EARTH. (Verses 19, 25).

5. THE RICH MAN LEARNED HE HAD NO CHANCE AFTER DEATH TO BE COMFORTED. There was **"a great gulf fixed"** in Hades between the place of comfort (where Lazarus was) and the place of torment (where the rich man was).

6. THE RICH MAN LEARNED THERE IS NO PEACE, REST OR COMFORT FOR THE WICKED. (Luke 16:19-31). Isaiah 57:21 says: **There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."** Take heed! (CRS)

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Bible Study – Sun. – 9:30 am & Wed. – 7pm
Assemblies – Sun. 10:30am & 6pm

Editorial...

WHY WE SING AND DO NOT PLAY IN WORSHIP

(N0. 11)

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 WORHIP.

Argument 19- "***There are (or will be) mechanical instruments of music in heaven and since no sin can enter heaven*** – (see Rev. 21:27), ***it is not sinful to use mechanical instruments of music when the church assembles together to worship God.*** (See Rev. 5:8; Rev. 14:2; Rev.15:2-3 & Matthew 6:10)."

Reply:

1. To assume and assert that mechanical instruments of music are (or will be) in heaven is to assume and assert something that *cannot be proven* by the Scriptures.

2. The above argument (which is an assumption) is based on the assumption that whatever there is in heaven, we may have the same thing in the church. Where is the Scriptural *proof* that this is true? No where!

What would a *spiritual* being do with a *physical*, *material* harp? If there are *physical* mechanical instruments of music in heaven, how will *spiritual* beings in glorious, immortal bodies play them? Please explain.

3. Revelation 5:8 says: "**And when he** (the Lamb-ed) **had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints.**" NOTE: It is argued by some that this proves it is Scriptural to have mechanical instrumental music in the worship assembly of the church.

Reply:

(1) This passage does not mention the church or the playing of mechanical instruments of music.

(2) Note the fact that "**every one of them**" had harps. Does this prove that every Christian in a church assembly must have a mechanical instrument of music in order to worship God acceptably? If not, why not?

(3) Note the fact that "**every one of them**" golden bowls full of incense. Would this authorize us to have bowls of incense in our worship assemblies today? If not, why not?

(4) Since the "**golden vials full of odours**" were "**the prayers of the saints**", is it possible that the "**harps**" represented (signified or symbolized) something other than "harps"? Is it?

(5) There is no more reason to think that the harps were

literal, than to think that the incense was literal. Were the bowls of incense literal? No! The text says they were (or represented or signified) the prayers of the saints!

NOTE: The next verse (v. 9) says: **"And they sung a new song saying, Thou are worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof..."** FURTHER NOTE: It says "they ***sung***..." It does ***not*** say "they ***played***." QUESTION: Why would one assume and assert that they played?

4. "Revelation 14:2-3 says: **"And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, 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..."**

Reply:

(1) John did *not* hear musicians playing on harps. He did *not* hear mechanical instrumental music. John heard a *"voice."* That is what the text says! The *"voice"* that he heard was *"from heaven."*

The *voice* that John *heard from heaven* was *"as"* the "voice" of: (A) *"many waters;"* (B) "a *great thunder"* and (C) *"the voice of harpers harping with their harps."* NOTE: From the view point of Rhythm, the *voice* was *as many waters.* From the view point of Volume, the *voice* was *as a great thunder* and from the view point of Harmony, the *voice* was *as the voice of harpers harping with their harps.*

(2) Verse 3 says: **"And they sung as it were a new song before the throne...and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."** NOTE: The text says "they *sung*..." It does *not* say that "they *played*" or that "they *played* and *sung*." It seems that some people are determined to assume things and add to or in some other way change what the text actually says.

5. Revelation 15:2-3 says: **"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty: just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."** NOTE: It is argued from this passage that since there is instrumental music in heaven we can have it is our worship to God in our assemblies.

Reply:

(1) Was the **"sea of glass mingled with fire"** a ***literal, physical*** sea of glass mingled with fire? Were ***"the harps of God"*** that are mentioned *literal* mechanical instruments of music like we have here on earth? How do you know?

(2) Verse 3 says **"And they sing the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb, saying..."** NOTE: It does *not* say "And they ***played***...or they ***played*** and ***sung***..." If there was any *playing* involved the text does *not* tell us. We must stop where the Word of God stops. Are you willing to do that?

(3) "Harps" are plural. Does this fact indicate that each of the singers had a harp? If so, must each one today have one?

SOME OBSERVATIONS: Since " **a white horse", "another horse that was red", "a black horse"** and **"a pale horse"** were seen in heaven does that prove that we may have and ride horses in our worship assemblies? Of course not!

Argument 20- "Jesus said, **'...Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven'** (Mt. 6:10). Since it is God's will to have mechanical instruments of music in heaven, it is God's will to have instrumental music in church worship here on earth today."

Reply:

1. If the argument as stated above has any merit to it, it does *not prove* that we *may* have instrumental music in our assemblies here on earth, but it proves that we *must* have it in our assemblies. NOTE: *If it is God's will*, then *we must have it.*

2. To assume and argue that it is God's will for saints to do everything on earth that He, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit does in heaven is without any Scriptural basis whatever.

3. To do God's will on earth *as* it is done in heaven does not mean that we are to do the same things that are done in heaven. It means that we are to be obedient to God's will for us on earth *as* angels in heaven are obedient to His will for them in heaven. NOTE: For an example see Rev. 8:5.

(To be continued – CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

East Albertville - JUNE 17– 22, 2007–
7:00 each evening Monday thru Friday.

Sunday June 17 – 9:30 am---------- Mike WEBB.
" " 10:30 " ----------Kevin CLARK
" " 6:00pm-----Billy RANDOLPH
Monday " 18----------Gilbert ALEXANDER
Tuesday " 19 - ----------Eugene BRITNELL
Wednesday" 20----------Bill HALL
Thursday " 21 ----------Charles G. MAPLES
Friday " 22---------- --Todd REYNOLDS
Plan to attend! Please announce! Tell others!

Hear our sermons live over the internet each Lord's Day at 10:30am & 6 pm at <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com>

GOSPEL MEETINGS at Jackson Drive – Athens, AL – June 10-15, 2007- with different speakers: Bob Hutto, Gardner Hall & Carrol R. Sutton.

SENTENCE SERMONS

Any relationship that is stitched together with genuine love will never tear apart.

* * * * *

One can change without improving but one cannot improve without changing.

* * * * *

You may travel the sea of life without Christ, but it will be too bad and so sad if you cross the river of death without Him.

* * * * *

Be sure to carefully watch your steps; others are watching them. .

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