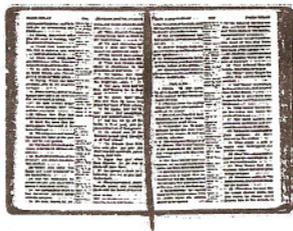


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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Number 11

## WHY BE A CHRISTIAN? (Concluded)

In our previous studies we gave five reasons that every accountable person should be a Christian.

Let us continue and conclude our study of WHY BE A CHRISTIAN.

### VI. TO GO TO HEAVEN.

To be saved in heaven means we will receive an eternal dwelling place as an inheritance. It will be "**incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away**". It will be reserved in heaven for us. (1 Pet. 1:4). In heaven *moth and rust doth not corrupt and thieves do not break through nor steal.* (Mt. 6:19-21)

In heaven *tears will be wiped away* and "**there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**" (Rev. 21:3-4).

In heaven "**we may have right to the tree of life**". (Rev. 22:2, 14).

"**There remaineth a rest to the people of God**". (Heb. 4:9). "**Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest...**" (Heb. 4:11).

Christians (saints) have *hope laid up for them in heaven*

according to Col. 1:5. We have *eternal life now in promise and now in hope and in the world to come* we will have it in *actuality* – in *possession!* (See 1 John 2:25; Titus 1:2; Mk. 10:29-30)

There is no hope outside the gospel of Christ. It is God's power to save. It must be believed and obeyed! (Rom. 1:16-18; 1 Pet. 4:17-18; 2 Thess. 1:6-9; Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9; 2:1-3; Rev. 22:14; etc.). The Word of God's grace teaches us these things. (See Acts 20:32; Titus 2:11-12; Eph. 2:5, 8-9). This is how we are saved by grace! This is how a sinner is washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. (Mt. 26:28; .Rev. 1:5; Rev. 7:14)

To obey the gospel a sinner must believe it, repent of his sins, confess his faith in Jesus as the Lord, the Son of God and be baptized in water. (See Acts 16:30-34; Acts 2:36-41; Acts 8:35-37; Rom. 10:9-10).

A Christian must live a life of holiness and good works. (See Jas. 1:27; Heb. 12:14; Tit. 2:14). He must then worship and serve God faithfully. (John 4:24; Mt. 6:24; Rev. 2:10) Heaven awaits Christians!

CRS

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial..

### WHY WE SING AND DO NOT PLAY IN WORSHIP

(NO. 16)

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 27-** *"Every time a change was made from the first (old) covenant to the second (new) covenant, God showed us what the change was and where the change was made. In the Old Testament mechanical instrumental music was used in worship and God has not shown us in the New Testament that He has changed it. Therefore it is still Scriptural for us to use it in the public worship assemblies of the church."*

#### **Reply:**

1. Assuming and asserting an argument is presumptuous and arrogant and does not prove its validity. This is true of a per-

son that makes the above argument.

2. The first (old) law (of Moses) said: *"And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death."* (Exodus 21:17). NOTE: The penalty for cursing father or mother was death! QUESTION: Where has God shown us this has been changed and when? Since God has not specifically shown us where and when this was changed, does this prove that the death penalty is still in force on those who curse their father or their mother? If not, why not?

3. The first (old) covenant said: **"Whoso lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death."** (Exodus 22:19). NOTE: It said the person that lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death! QUESTION: Where and when has God specifically shown us that He has changed the death penalty for a person who lieth with a beast? Since God has not specifically shown us where and when this was changed, does this prove that the death penalty is still in force? Should such a person today be put to death? If not, why not?

4. The first (old) covenant said: **"Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds:..."** (Deut. 22:9). NOTE: The ASV says "two kinds of seed..." FURTHER NOTE: Under the first (old) covenant the Israelites were prohibited from planting (sowing) two kinds of seeds in their vineyard. Where and when has God specifically shown us that He has changed this prohibition? QUESTION: Since God has not told us that his prohibition has been changed or removed, does this prove that it is sinful today for us

to plant (or sow) two kinds of seeds in our vineyards? Where and when did God change it? Would you teach that it is sinful today to sow two kinds of seeds in a vineyard? If the above argument is true you should!

5. The first (old) covenant taught that "a stubborn and rebellious son" was to be chastened by his parents, but if he would "not hearken unto them" he was to be brought "unto the elders of his city" and "all the men of his city" were to "stone him with stones, that he die." (Deut. 21:18-21).

Since God has not specifically shown us where and when He has changed (or removed) this command, is it still in force today? If not, why not? Should a rebellious son be stoned to death? Of course not!

Would those who make the above argument want to have the men of the city to stone a rebellious son of theirs to death? I seriously doubt it, don't you?

6. The first (old) covenant said: "Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together." (Deut. 22:10). QUESTION: Has God specifically shown us where and when He changed this prohibition? No! Is it sinful in this dispensation to plow with an ox and an ass together? If so, why is it?

7. The first (old) covenant said: "Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woollen and linen together." (Deut. 22:11). QUESTION: Where and when has God removed or changed this prohibition? There is no record of it, is there? Does this prove that it is still in force? Did God change or remove this prohibition? Is it sinful for a

person today to wear a garment of divers' sorts such as wool and linen? If not why? To be consistent with the above argument a person must say that it is sinful for a person to wear a garment of wool and linen. Is that your contention? Surely not.

8. The first (old) covenant taught that a brother of a deceased brother who left no children was obligated to marry the deceased brother's widow and raise the firstborn to carry his brother's name so it would not be put out of Israel. (Deut. 25:5-6). Are these instructions to be followed today since God does not specifically tell us where and when He changed or removed them? According to the "reasoning" of the above argument these instructions are as binding today as they were back under the first (old) covenant. Do you believe that they are? Neither do I. Neither do I know of anyone who really believes they are binding. NOTE: In view of this, to be consistent we must conclude that we cannot justify the use of mechanical instrumental music in the public assemblies of the church just because it was practiced under the first (old) covenant and God has not revealed to us where and when He changed it.

**Argument 28-** *"The things that God was against He told us He was against them. If God was against mechanical music in worship He would have told us somewhere in the Bible that it is positively wrong. All the things that were against us or which God's Word plainly and specifically condemned in the New Testament were taken out of the way. Mechanical instrumental music in worship is*

*not condemned in the New Testament. Therefore, it is Scriptural in our public worship assemblies."*

**Reply:**

1. It is merely an assumption and an unproven assertion that *"the things that God was against He told us He was against them."*

NOTE: This statement cannot be proven by the Scriptures.

2. *"If God was against mechanical music in worship He would have told us somewhere in the Bible that it is positively wrong"* is another unproven assertion. It has absolutely no Scriptural basis whatsoever!

3. The conclusion that since *"mechanical instrumental music in worship in not condemned in the New Testament 'therefore, it is Scriptural in our public worship assemblies'"* does not follow and therefore it is unwarranted.

4. SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

A. In Exodus 30:1-8 God commanded His people to *"burn incense"*. Where in the N.T. does God condemn the burning of incense in worship? He doesn't! Is it Scriptural to burn incense in worship? Of course not!

B. In Exodus 25:31-40; 28:1-5, 31-43 & 30:22-33 God commanded His people to have a candlestick of pure gold, holy garments for the priests and anointing oil. Where in the N.T. has *"God plainly and specifically"* condemned these things? No where! According to the above argument we may have a candlestick of pure gold in our worship. We may wear "holy garments" as the priests did in the Old Testament and we can have and use "anointing oil" as used in the O.T. (To be continued) CRS <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com>

## SENTENCE SERMONS

When you make a mistake, admit it, learn from it, and don't repeat it.

\* \* \* \* \*

We must adapt to changing times, and still hold to unchanging principles.

\* \* \* \* \*

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hot heads and cold hearts never solve problems.

\* \* \* \* \*

Man cannot build a successful world without God – history has proven it!

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