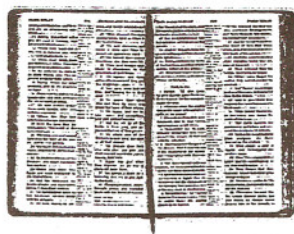


# THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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## SOME THINGS THAT WILL HELP CHRISTIANS GROW

To be strong and steadfast in the Lord, we must become spiritually mature. We begin as spiritual babes and we grow into adults. Here are some things that will assist us in that growth.

1. A desire to grow! 1 Pet. 2:2 says: "As newborn babe, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." Also see Heb. 5:11-14. Jesus said: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6).

2. Diligence, meditation & faithfulness in learning God's Word. (See 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:15; 1 Tim. 4:15-16).

3. Purity of heart. Prov. 4:23 says: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Jesus said: "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries..." (Mt. 15:18-20). Mt. 5:8 says: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

4. Think Right! Prov. 23:7 says: "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." (Also see Rom. 12:3; Phil. 4:8).

5. Speak Right! The psalmist said: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." (Psa. 19:14). In Eph. 4:25, 29 Paul said: "Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour..." and "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

6. Act Right! James said: "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." (James 2:12). Also see Rev. 22:14; Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9; etc.). Pray daily. Assemble with the saints each time they gather. (See Heb. 10:25).

7. A Balanced Spiritual Diet! We need a balanced diet if we are to develop spiritually as we should. We are to live by "every word of God." (Luke 4:4) Also see 2 Tim. 2:14-16. We need all of God's Word. We should not get "hung up" on one or two subjects.

8. Spiritual Exercise! (See Heb. 5:12-14; Tit. 3:1; 1 Tim. 6:3-6).

9. Seek God and His Kingdom First! (See Mt. 6:25-34.)

(CRS)

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial...

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

(NO. 21)

Let us continue our study of the playing of mechanical instruments of music in the public worship assemblies of the church in light of God's truth. We are considering some of the arguments set forth by those who favor such.

**ARGUMENT 31-** "In *Eph. 5:19* Paul said: '*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*' Since the expressions '*singing*' and '*making melody*' are two different phrases that are joined by the conjunction '*and*', they have two distinct meanings.' **Singing** means succession of harmonious sounds made with the voice, but '**making melody**' means the playing on a mechanical instru-

ument.' It follows therefore that it is Scriptural to play instruments of music in our assemblies in worship to God."

### REPLY:

1. It is certainly true that there are two different expressions in *Eph. 5:19*, but the conclusion stated in the above argument is assumed and asserted, but it is not proven!

2. The fact that the two expressions ("*singing*" and "*making melody*") are joined with an "*and*" does not necessarily mean that they are two distinct actions as set forth in the above argument. Let us consider a number of other passages that are similarly constructed.

A. *Rom. 4:7* says: "*Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*" Note the two expressions ("*iniquities are forgiven*" and "*sins are covered*"). They are joined by an "*and*". Do they mean the same thing or do they have two distinct meanings? If they have two different meanings please explain the difference between them. You cannot explain the difference, can you? Of course not!

If they mean the same thing, then the argument made above will not stand. It is a false argument.

B. *Rom. 10:15* says: "*...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*" The two expressions ("*preach the gospel of peace*" and "*bring glad tidings of good things*") are joined by an "*and*". Do they mean the same things? Or do they have different mean-



ings? If they have different meanings, please explain the difference between *"the gospel of peace"* and *"glad tidings of good things"*. You cannot do it, can you? Of course not!

If they mean the same thing, the fact that the two expressions (in Eph. 5:19) are joined together by an "and" does *not* prove that one of the expressions (*singing*) means *with the human voice* and the other expression (*making melody*) means *"playing instrumental music"*. In view of this, the above argument is completely false! It *fails* to prove that it is Scriptural to play mechanical instruments of music in our public worship assemblies.

C. Rom. 10:18 says: *"But I say, Have they not heard? Yes, verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."* Do the expressions (*"their sound went into all the earth"* and (*their words unto the ends of the world"*) mean the same thing? If so, then the above argument falls.

If they do not mean the same thing, please explain in detail the difference. What is the difference between *"their sound"* and *their words"*? What is the difference between *"all the earth"* and *"the ends of the world"*? If no substantial difference can be shown (and it can't be), this is another example from the Scriptures that proves the reasoning in the above argument is false.

D. In 1 Peter 2:6-8 Peter said: *"Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be con-*

*founded. Unto you therefore, which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."* Do the expressions (*"a stone of stumbling"* and *"a rock of offence"*) have different meanings since they are joined by the conjunction "and"? If yes, please explain in detail the difference between a *"stone"* and a *"rock"* and between *"stumbling"* and *"being offended."* You cannot show that they substantially have different meanings, can you? Of course not! If there is no difference, then the above argument has no merit and thus should not be made.

Do the expressions mean the same thing? If they do, then the above argument is false and thus should not have been made.

E. In Eph. 1:3 Paul said: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed up with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."* The expressions *"the God"* and *"Father"* are joined by "and". Do they mean the same person (personality) or are they two different persons since the expressions are joined by "and"? If the two expressions refer to one and the same person (and they do), the argument made above on Eph. 5:19 is false! If the expressions refer to different persons, please explain the difference between *"the God"* and *"Father."* You cannot show the difference, can you? Of course not! "The

God" and "Father" are one and the same person! The above argument that is made in an effort to justify mechanical instrumental music in the worship of saints is completely false!

3. Please observe carefully that Eph. 5:19 says: *"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."* NOTE: *We are told to "speak(ing)" to ourselves in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. How are we to do this? It is by "singing and making melody" in our heart to the Lord. It is not by making melody on (or upon) a harp, an organ, piano, etc. but the melody is to be made in the heart!* FURTHER NOTE: We cannot speak to ourselves in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs by playing. It must be done by singing!

In Col. 3:16 Paul says: *"...Teaching and admonishing one*

*another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."* NOTE: How are we to teach and admonish one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs? It is by *"singing"* with grace in our hearts to the Lord. It cannot be done by playing! (To be cont'd) (CRS)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS** at Beulah, Athens, AL May 4-9, 2008. Carrol R. Sutton, preaching. Please come! Tell others!

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>eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com<

**GOSPEL MEETINGS** AT East Albertville, Albertville, AL May 25-30, 2008. Regular times on Lord's day. 7pm each week day. **R.J. Stevens, Preaching.** **Charles G. Maples** will preach on Friday night, the 30<sup>th</sup>. Come! Tell others!

**GOSPEL MEETING** at Walnut Ridge, AR April 20-24, 2008. Carrol R. Sutton, preaching. THIS MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED because of flooding till a later date which will be announced later.

## SENTENCE SERMONS

The less pure religion a church practices, the more entertainment it takes to keep it going.

\* \* \* \* \*

A Christian is known by the company he keeps and the company he keeps out of.

\* \* \* \* \*

It's not the load you carry that breaks you down, but it is the way you carry your load.

\* \* \* \* \*

The wages of sin have never been reduced and never will be.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is more profitable to study and learn more about the Rock of Ages than the ages of the rocks.

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