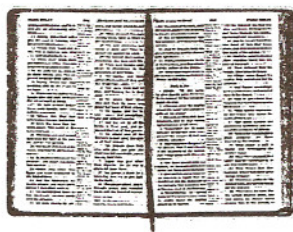


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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CHRISTIANS SHOULD GROW IN AN APPRECIATION OF SPIRITUAL VALUES

To be strong in the Lord and "in the power of His might" (Eph. 6:10), we must grow in an appreciation of spiritual values. We should have a sincere "love of the truth" that we might be saved. (2 Thess. 2:10).

We should deeply appreciate the love and grace of God. Consider the great love that God has for the world and His grace by which He saves us. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). Also see Rom. 5:8; 3:24; 8:35-39; 1 John 4:8; Ephesians 3:13-19; 2:4-10; Titus 3:7; 2:11-12; Acts 20:32).

We should value and exalt Jesus Christ above the world. We should value Christ as Paul did. He said: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yet doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things,

and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ..." (Phil. 3:7-11).

We should put the kingdom of God and His righteousness first in our lives. Jesus said: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness..." (Mt. 6:33).

We should value very highly "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding." (Phil. 4:7).

We should love the commandments of God and esteem highly His precepts and hate every false way. Psalms 119:127-128 says: "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way."

We should value one soul worth more than the world with all of its riches. In Mt. 16:26 Jesus said: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" *Do you appreciate spiritual values? You should!* (CRS)

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Editorial...

WHY WE SING AND DO NOT PLAY IN WORSHIP

(NO. 19)

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.

ARGUMENT 31- *"The religious scholars of the past taught (and those of the present teach) that it is Scriptural to play mechanical instruments of music in the worship assemblies of Christians today."*

REPLY:

1. Assuming and asserting the above argument does not prove that such is true. It is simply an assumption and assertion without any proof whatsoever!

2. Although the proof is lacking that "the religious scholars of the world have taught (and still do) that "it is Scriptural for Christians to use mechanical instrumental music in their wor-

ship assemblies," many people assume that such was (and is) the case today. But the truth is that such is not the case!

3. Suppose all religious scholars taught (and still do) that it is Scriptural for Christians to use mechanical instrumental music in their worship assemblies, would that prove that it is? Of course not! "Religious scholars" do not have "all power (authority)...in heaven and in earth," but Jesus Christ does! (See Matthew 28:18). Their words are not "spirit and...life", but His words are "spirit and...life" according to John 6:63. Their words will not judge us at the last day but Jesus declared: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." (John 12:48). NOTE: The word of Christ will judge us in the last day, not the word (or words) of "religious scholars!"

4. Let us now consider some of the comments of some "prominent religious scholars" and of the present.

A. Conybeare and Howson (eminent scholars of the Church of England, commenting on Eph. 5:19) say: *"Throughout the whole passage there is a contrast implied between the heathen and the Christian practice, e.g. when you meet, let your enjoyment consist not in fullness of wine. But in fullness of the Spirit; let your songs be, not the drinking songs of heathen feasts, but psalms and hymns; and their accompaniment, not the music of the lyre, but the melody of the heart; while you sing them to the praises not of Bacchus or Venus, but of the Lord Jesus Christ."* —Life and Epistles of St. Paul, Vol. II, p. 408.

B. Charles Buck (English Independent minister) said: "*Much has been said as to the use of instrumental music in the house of God. On the one side it is observed that we ought not to object to it, because it assists devotion; that it was used in the worship of God under the Old Testament; and that the worship of heaven is represented by a delightful union of vocal and instrumental music. But on the other side, it is remarked, that nothing should be done in or about God's worship without example or precept from the New Testament; that, instead of aiding devotion, it often tends to draw off the mind from the right object; that it does not accord with the simplicity of Christian worship; that the practice of those who lived under the ceremonial dispensation can be no rule for us; that not one text in the New Testament requires or authorizes it by precept or example, by express words or fair inference; and that the representation of the musical harmony in heaven is merely figurative language, denoting the happiness of the saints.*"—**Theological Dictionary, Article Singing.**

C. Justin Martyr (a so-called "Church Father" of Palestine, who is said to have suffered martyrdom in the year 165) said: "*Simple singing is not agreeable to children, but singing with lifeless instruments and with dancing and clapping; on which account the use of this kind of instruments and of others agreeable to children is removed from the songs in the churches, and there is left remaining simply singing.*"—**Justin's Questions and Answers to the Orthodox, Ques. 107, p. 462.**

D. "The early Reformers, when they came out of Rome, removed them (mechanical instruments of music – ed.) as the monuments of idolatry. Luther called the

organ an ensign of Baal; Calvin said that instrumental music was not fitter to be adopted into the Christian Church than the incense and the candlestick; Knox called the organ a kist [chest] of whistles. The Church of England revived them, against a very strong protest, and the English dissenters would not touch them." – **McClintock & Strong Ency., pp. 762-763.**

E. John Calvin (a Presbyterian scholar) said: "*Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law. The papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this, as well as many other things, from the Jews...What, therefore, was in use under the law is by no means entitled to our practice under the Gospel...Instrumental music, we therefore maintain, was only tolerated on account of the times and the people, because they were as boys as the sacred Scripture speaketh, whose condition required these puerile rudiments. But in gospel times we must not have recourse to these unless we wish to destroy the evangelical perfection and to obscure the meridian light we enjoy in Christ our Lord.*"—**Calvin's Commentary on the Thirty-third Psalm, & on 1 Sam. 18:1-9.**

F. John Wesley (the reputed founder of the Methodist Church is quoted by Adam Clarke to have said): "*I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen.*"—**Clarke's Commentary, Vol. IV, p 684.**

G. Adam Clarke (a noted Methodist scholar commenting on Amos 6:5) said: "*See the note on 1 Chron. xxiii. 5; and see especially the note on 2 Chron. xxix. 25. I believe that David was not autho-*

rized by the Lord to introduce that multitude of musical instruments into the Divine worship of which we read; and I am satisfied that his conduct in this respect is most solemnly reprehended by this prophet; and I further believe that the use of such instruments of music, in the Christian Church, is without the sanction and against the will of God; that they are subversive of the spirit of true devotion, and that they are sinful. If there was a wo to them who invented instruments of music, as did David under the law, is there no wo, no curse to them who invent them, and introduce them into the worship of God in the Christian Church? I am an old man, and an old minister; and I hereby declare that I never knew them productive of any good in the worship of God; and have had reason to believe that they were productive of much evil. Music, as a science, I esteem and admire: but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and

abhor. This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the author of Christianity." -Clarke's Commentary, Vol. 1V, p. 686.

H. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, "a renowned London preacher, whose name is familiar in religious circles throughout the English speaking world, did not use instrumental music in the worship..."

--M.C. Kurfees in "Instruments of Music In the Worship", p. 196.

NOTE: Although none of the men quoted above are authoritative (only the Word of God is), their writings are, no doubt, a surprise to many people who use mechanical instrumental music in their worship. The above quotations prove the above argument is wrong!

(To be continued)

(CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS at Oak Mountain, Pelham, AL Feb.17-22, 2008. Carrol R. Sutton, preaching. Regular times on Lord's Day.

7: pm each week day.

Make plans to come and be with us. Tell others!

SENTENCE SERMONS

To sustain life and to grow stronger we must eat "the bread of life" daily.

* * * * *

So live that when people speak evil of you, no one who knows you will believe them.

* * * * *

The highest and greatest knowledge is the knowledge of God and His Son.

* * * * *

It takes attentive listening as well as clear preaching of truth to make a great sermon.

* * * * *

Outside of God's will there are no "successes". In God's will there are no "failures".

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