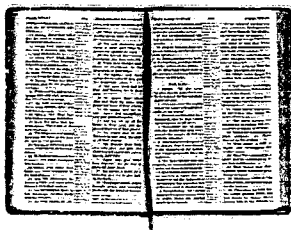


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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)

Volume 45

JANUARY, 2008

Number 1

CHRISTIANS SHOULD GROW IN PRACTICE

Paul admonishes Christians to **"be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might"** in Eph. 6:10. In 1 Cor. 16:13 he further says: **"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."** We read in Prov. 24:5 that **"A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength."** Although knowledge is essential to strength, it takes more than knowledge to be **"strong in the Lord"**.

TO INCREASE IN STRENGTH WE MUST:

1. Be doers of the word! James exhorted **"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."** (1:22). Also see Luke 6:46; Mt. 7:21-29.

2. Be filled with fruits of righteousness. In Phil. 1:9-11 Paul said: **"And this I pray, that your love may yet abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."**

3. Grow in faith and love. In 1 Thess. 1:3 Paul stated that he remembered their **"work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ"**. In 3:12 he said: **"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men..."** Our faith must work by love. (Gal. 5:6).

4. Be rich in good works! In 1 Tim. 6:17-19 Paul told Timothy to charge the rich that they **"do good, that they be rich in good works. Ready to distribute, willing to communicate..."** In Titus 3:1 he said: **"...to be ready to every good work."** We can profess to know God but in our works we can deny him and be lost. (See Titus 1:16).

God expects us to respect and obey His Word. If we claim to be Christians and deny Him by our works, we will be lost! Let each of us who are Christians grow in practice of God's Word! As we grow in knowledge let us grow in practice! Let us practice what we preach! Are you growing in knowledge and faith that you might grow in the *practicing of* the Word of God? You should be! (CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

ELDERS

Lionel Gary

Rex Henson

Carrol R. Sutton

DEACONS

Mike Pack

Jerry Tucker

Gerald White

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the **Editor**, 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950 or at <theinstructor@bellsouth.net> or at (256) 878-0920

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950.

ligious historians and scholars of the world have testified (and do) that 'Christians' have used mechanical instrumental music in their worship assemblies since the first century", many people assume that such was the case.

3. Most people who make the above argument in an effort to justify the use of mechanical instrumental music in worship to God, do not give quotations from secular and religious historians and scholars to prove their claim.

4. Let us consider some direct quotations from some historians and scholars and see if the claim made as to what they have testified (and do) has any validity to it.

A. *"The singing of psalms and hymns was an important part of the service. It might be lead by an individual, but Paul's advice proves that the singing by the whole congregation was regarded as the best of praise..."*

--History of the Christian Church by
John Fletcher Hurst, Vol. 1, p. 142

B. *"The singing was simple, and modeled after the Jewish psalmody...The music was at no time, and in no place, regarded as the prerogative of the singers. That only was held to be sacred music which the congregation could participate in, either responsively, or continuously...The music of the Church was at first simple, but to the old melodies were now added new words, which in many instances found their way into the public services, and had a tendency to displace the older psalmody."*

-- (ibid), pp. 356-359.

C. *"In the modern Russian Church melody is cultivated, but both in this church and in the medieval Eastern Church all instrumental music was, and is,*

Editorial...

WHY WE SING AND DO NOT PLAY IN WORSHIP

(NO. 18)

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 secular and religious historians and scholars of the world have testified (and do) that in the first century (and in every century since then)'Christians' have used mechanical instruments of music in their public worship assemblies. This is proof enough that such is Scriptural."*

REPLY:

1. To assume and assert the above 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 secular and re-

strictly prohibited." (From AD 768 – 1517) – (ibid. page 554).

D. *"Church music, which at the outset consisted mainly of the singing of the psalms, flourished especially in Syria and at Alexandria. The music was very simple in its character. There was some sort of alternate singing in the worship of Christians, as it is described by Pliny."* – History of the Christian Church by George P. Fisher, p. 65.

E. *"The primitive church music was choral and congregational...."* – (ibid. p. 121)

F. *"Musical Instruments in Church Services. – For almost a thousand years Gregorian chant, without any instrumental or harmonic addition, was the only music used in connection with the liturgy. The organ, in its primitive and rude form was the first, and for a long time the sole, instrument used to accompany the chant."*

-- The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. X, p. 657.

G. *"Instruments.—Whatever evidence is forthcoming, is to the effect that the early Christians did not use musical instruments."*

-- A Dictionary of Christian Antiquities by William Smith & Samuel Cheetham, Vol. II, Page 1365

H. *"Because the organ was means of enjoyment by society in general, its use was rejected in early Christian circles."* -- The New Schaff Herzog of Religious Knowledge, Vol. VIII, Page 257.

I. *"4. Vocal versus instrumental music. The superiority of vocal over instrumental music was a general tenet of Christian aesthetics, although the degree of hostility to instrumental performances varied in different places, at different times..."* -- The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, Vol. K – Q, Page 468.

J. *"2. Instrumental music is also of very ancient date, its invention being ascribed to Tubal,*

the sixth descendant from Cain. That instrumental music was not practiced by the primitive Christians, but was an aid to devotion of later times, is evident from church history." – Fessenden's Encyclopedia, Page 852, Art. Music.

K. *"Music in churches is as ancient as the apostles, but instrumental music not so."* – Joseph Bingham in Works, Vol. 3, p. 137

L. Lyman Coleman (a Presbyterian scholar) said: *"The tendency of this [instrumental music] was to secularize the music of the church, and to encourage singing by a choir. Such musical accompaniments were gradually introduced; but they can hardly be assigned to a period earlier than the fifth and sixth centuries. Organs were unknown in the church until the eighth or ninth century. Previous to this they had their place in the theater, rather than in the church. They were never regarded with favor in the Eastern Church, and were vehemently opposed in many places in the West."* -- Primitive Church, pp. 376 – 377.

M. *"The church, although lapsing more and more into defection from the truth and into a corruption of apostolic practice, had no instrumental music for 1200 years {that is, it was not in general use before this time},...the Calvinistic Reformed Church ejected it from its services as an element of Popery, even the Church of England having come very nigh to its extrusion from her worship... It is heresy in the sphere of worship."*

--John Girardeau (A Presbyterian in Instrumental Music, p. 178.

N. *"In the Greek church the organ never came into use. But after the eighth century it became more and more common in the Latin church; not, however, without opposition from the side of the*

monks.... *The Reform Church discarded it; and though the church of Basel very early introduced it, it was in other places admitted only sparingly and after long hesitation.*" --Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia, Vol. 2, page 1702

O. Thomas Aquinas (an able, learned, Catholic scholar in the thirteenth century said: *"Our church does not use musical instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal, that she may not seem to Judaize."*

-- Bingham's Antiquities, Vol. 2, p. 483 (London edition)

P. Edward Dickinson, (Professor of the History of Music, in the Conservatory of Music, Oberlin College) said: *"... while the pagan melodies were always sung to an instrumental accompaniment, the church chant was exclusively vocal..."*

--Music in the History of the Western Church, pp. 54-55

Q. Frank Landon Humphreys (author of "The Evolution of

Church Music) said: *"...All the music employed in their ("the early Christians") early services was vocal, and the rhythmic element and all gesticulation were forbidden."*
--Evolution of Church Music, p. 42

R. James Pierce (a learned Presbyterian scholar of the 18th century) said: *"I come now to say somewhat of the antiquity of musical instruments. But that these were not used in the Christian Church in the primitive times is attested by all the ancient writers with one consent..."* --A Vindication of the Dissenters, cited by Girardeau, pp. 157, 158.

5. The evidence given (and much more could be given) is much more than adequate to convince any honest seeker of truth that the above argument does not have any validity! (CRS)

(To be continued)

GOSPEL MEETINGS at Oak Mountain, Feb. 17 - 22, 2008. Carrol R. Sutton preaching. Make plans to come and be with us. Tell others!

SENTENCE SERMONS

Courage is resistance to fear – mastery of fear – not the absence of fear!

* * * * *

One man with true courage can face a multitude of evil doers.

* * * * *

Be as kind as you can today, because there may be no tomorrow.

* * * * *

"I complained because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet!"

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 US Highway 431
Albertville, AL 35950

Second-class Postage