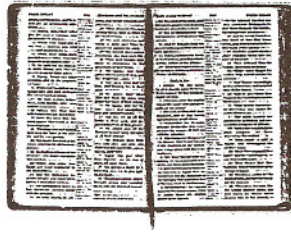


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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SIN – WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES

WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is "the transgression of the law" according to 1 John 3:4. "All unrighteousness" is sin according to 1 John 5:17. Proverbs 24:9 tells us that "the thought of foolishness is sin". We learn from Romans 14:23 that "whatsoever is not of faith is sin." By way of summary: Any thought, word, or action (or failure to act) that is contrary to the will of God is sin!

WHAT SIN DOES?

Here are some things that sin will do.

1. Sin deceives! Heb. 3:12-13 says: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

2. Sin ladens! 2 Tim. 3:6 mentions "silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts."

3. Sin holds! Prov. 5:22 says: "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he

shall be holden with the cords of his sins."

4. Sin Rules! John 8:34 says: "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."

5. Sin consumes! Warning the Israelites Moses said: "Depart...touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins." (Numbers 16:26).

6. Sin destroys love! Mt. 24:12 says: And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

7. Sin destroys conscience! 1 Tim. 4:2 says: "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

8. Sin destroys good! Ecc. 9:18 says: "...one sinner destroyeth much good."

9. Sin brings shame and reproach! Read Hos. 4:7. Prov. 14:34 says: "...sin is a reproach to any people."

12. Sin brings death! Rom. 6:23 says: "For the wages of sin is death..." NOTE: In view of sin and its consequences, each of us should turn to God in obedience to His will. (CRS)

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Editorial...

WHY WE SING AND DO NOT PLAY IN WORSHIP

(NO. 23)

In our past studies we considered (and established) the fact that it is Scriptural (i.e., authorized in the Scriptures) for Christians to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs in our assemblies in worship to God. It was also proven by the Scriptures that the playing of mechanical instruments of music in our assemblies in worship to God is sinful.

IS IT WRONG TO SING SPIRITUAL SONGS WITH MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OUTSIDE THE ASSEMBLY, SUCH AS IN THE HOME, AT FUNERALS, WEDDINGS, ETC.?

The above question has been one that has created a lot of concern and discussion among Christians for a long time, and it

should.

In discussing the above subject, we should simply ask and consider the following question. *Is it Scriptural (i.e., is it authorized in the Scriptures) for Christians to use mechanical instruments of music when they sing spiritual songs outside of the worship assemblies such as at home, at weddings, funerals, etc.?*

We cannot answer this question by appealing to our emotions, or to our past or present practices, or to our likes or dislikes. None of these are authoritative. We must appeal to the Scriptures.

In Col. 3:17 the apostle Paul said: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." NOTE: All that we do (*in word or deed*) must be done "*in the name of*" i.e., "*in recognition of the authority of (...combined with the thought of relying or resting on)*" ...Col.3:17..."—Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words by W.E. Vine

FURTHER NOTE: We have *no right* to say and do things either in or out of the assemblies that Jesus Christ has not authorized! Now let us consider the question: *Has Christ authorized Christians to sing and play spiritual songs at home, at funerals, at weddings, etc.?*

What is the issue involved in the study of this question?

1. It is not whether or not mechanical instruments of music may be used in the home, in weddings or school programs, etc.?

2. It is not whether or not I

like mechanical instrumental music.

3. It is not that mechanical instrumental music is sinful within itself.

4. It is not a matter of mere choice or preference.

5. It is a question of what God has authorized us to do. It is a question as to what pleases God?

As individual Christians we are authorized to sing praises to God and to sing psalms. While in prison in Philippi, **"at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them."** (Acts 16:25). James wrote: **"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms."** (5:13). NOTE: There is no indication in these verses that Paul and Silas "played" or had anyone else to "play" or that Christ authorized playing as they sang praises unto God.

Our worship (whether public or private) must be **"in spirit and in truth"** according to John 4:23-24. Since "truth" does not authorize the use of mechanical instrumental music in worship (whether public or private), it is not right to play mechanical instrumental music with singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs at home, at funerals, or weddings. NOTE: If someone says "it is not worship at home, funerals, weddings, or school programs, etc.", we should ask for the authority to use psalms, hymns and spiritual songs in a secular way or profane way or for entertainment, etc.?

WHERE IS THE SCRIPTURAL

AUTHORITY FOR SINGING & PLAYING SPIRITUAL SONGS AT HOME, FUNERALS, WEDDINGS, & SCHOOL PROGRAMS ETC.?

1. Where is the precept (a command or a statement) that authorizes it? I cannot find one. Do you know of one? If so, where is it?

2. Where is an approved example that authorizes it? If there is one in the Scriptures, I have overlooked it. If there is one, where is it?

3. Where is the necessary implication that authorizes it? I haven't found one in the Scriptures! If you have found one, where is it?

NOTE: If we are not authorized in the Scriptures to play as well as sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, it is sinful to do so.

FURTHER NOTE: If we are not worshipping God as we sing and play outside of the assemblies, what are we doing? Why are we singing and playing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs? Are we merely being entertained and entertaining others? Do we have the right to use "the Lord's songs" (psalms, hymns and spiritual songs) in such a way and for such a purpose?

Can we sing and play spiritual songs outside of our assemblies by faith? We cannot do so since it is not authorized in God's Word since **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Rom. 10:17). We can sing by faith but we cannot play by faith.

Can we sing and play spirit-

ual songs outside of our assemblies and abide in the doctrine of Christ? We cannot do so since it is not authorized in the doctrine of Christ. We can sing and abide in the doctrine of Christ (see Acts 16:25; James 5:13) but we cannot play and abide in the doctrine of Christ. 2 John 9 says: "**Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**" NOTE: If we play (since it is not authorized in the doctrine of Christ), we do not have God!

Is it a good work to sing and play spiritual songs outside of the assemblies? The Scriptures throughly furnishes us "**unto all good works**" according to 2 Tim. 3:16-17. The Scriptures furnishes us sing (Acts 16:25; James 5:13)

but they do not furnish us to play. Therefore, it is not a good work! NOTE: Since it is not a good work, it must be an evil work! We dare not do it!

No, it is not Scriptural for us to sing and play psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs outside of our assemblies in our homes, at funerals, weddings, school programs, etc.

We certainly have a Scriptural right to sing spiritual songs at home, etc. outside of our assemblies, but not to play!

(To be cont'd) (CRS)

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GOSPEL MEETINGS AT East Albertville.
Albertville, AL September 21-26, 2008. Regular times on Lord's day. 7pm each week day. Gary Kerr, Preaching. Come! Tell others!

GOSPEL MEETING at Walnut Ridge, AR
July 20-24, 2008. Carrol R. Sutton, preaching. Make plans to visit with us and please tell others!

SENTENCE SERMONS

A happy person can enjoy the scenery even when on a detour. Are you a happy person?
* * * * *

Envy will cause a person to count another person's blessings rather than count his own.
* * * * *

Learn to enjoy little things – there are so many of them.
* * * * *

The Gospel can break a hard heart and can heal a broken heart.
* * * * *

When "the door is shut", it will not be opened again!

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