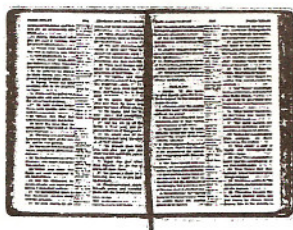


# THE INSTRUCTOR



"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

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Number 3

## CHRISTIANS SHOULD GROW IN THE ENJOYMENT OF SPIRITUAL THINGS

Christians should be mindful that all spiritual blessings are in Christ. Eph. 1:3 says: "**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.**" As penitent believers, we were "baptized into Christ" (Gal. 3:26-27). We have *salvation* from past sins *in Christ*. This should cause us to be happy.

In Christ we have *fellowship* with Him. We are *children of God*. Since we are in the Lord, we should rejoice! Paul said: "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord..." (Phil. 3:1) and in Phil. 4:4 he said: "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

In Christ we have *genuine love* and "love rejoices in the truth" (1 Cor. 13:6). It should be a source of joy for all of us when hear of others "walking in the truth." (3 John 3-4). We should "buy the truth and sell it not." (Prov. 23:23).

We should grow in an appreciation of our brothers and sisters in Christ and should enjoy the

*friendship* and *fellowship* that we have with them.

As we faithfully serve the Lord, at times there will be hardships and sufferings. We should be happy and rejoice in these *hardships* and *sufferings*. Jesus said: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Mt. 5:11-12).

The apostles rejoiced "that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." (Acts 5:41).

In 1 Pet. 4:13 we read: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." Verse 14 says: If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye..."

We should grow in the enjoyment of the privilege we have as God's children *to pray to Him as our Father*. (See 1 Pet. 3:12).

We should be thankful and happy that we have hope of eternal life. (Tit. 1:2). As Paul said: "*Rejoicing in hope!*" (Rom. 12:12) (CRS)

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial...

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

(NO. 20)

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.

Last month we were dealing with Argument 31 which says:

*"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:

Let us pick up where we left off and notice a number of statements made by scholars, preachers, etc. during and following what is sometimes called "the restoration movement".

5. Alexander Campbell (scholar and reformer) said: "To those who have no real devotion or spirit-

uality in them, and whose animal nature flags, under the oppression of church service, I think that instrumental music would be not only a desideratum, but an essential prerequisite to fire up their souls to even animal devotion. But I presume to all spiritually-minded Christians, such aids would be as a cow bell in a concert."- Memoirs of Alexander Campbell, page 366.

6. Samuel Rogers (a servant of describing the pioneer times) said: "It must be remembered that almost every convert we made in those days was required to pray, not only at home, but in the church also; and all who had voices to sing, sung with the spirit; whether with the understanding or not, I will not venture to say. We had no choirs then to do the singing for the congregation, and we certainly had no organs - not even a tuning fork."

--Autobiography, p. 71.

7. Thomas M. Allen (gifted Gospel evangelist in Missouri) said: "Since I have been writing these numbers I have been thrown back to the early days of my ministerial career. It has given me great pleasure to mingle in memory with the noble sisters and brethren who then bore such a noble part in this glorious movement. They who live now know but little of the difficulties we had to meet and overcome. They now have their fine meeting houses. We had the courthouse, private residences, and groves to worship in and under. We had but few friends, and were opposed by all religionists. We are now strong, and the unprejudiced mind has decreed in our favor. We succeeded by the truth, the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, and after having triumphed by its power, what a burning shame it is that some of our congregations have made shipwreck of faith and apostatized by aping the sects, and going into the embrace of the mother of harlots by substituting or-



*gan-grinding* for the worship of God, which must be in spirit and in truth. \* \* \* *I thank the Lord that none of the congregations that I was instrumental in organizing have become organ-grinders.*"—Apostolic Times, March 10, 1870, p. 377.

8. **Robert Milligan** (outstanding scholar) said: (speaking of the use of instrumental music in Christian worship) that it "*is wholly unwarranted by anything that is either said or taught in the New Testament.*"—Instrumental Music In The Worship by M.C. Kurfees, p. 212.

9. **Jacob Creath** considered "*Missionary Societies,*" "*infant-sprinkling, organ-grinding in churches,*" etc. as "*innovations.*"—Gospel Advocate, 1870, pp. 566, 824.

10. **Benjamin Franklin** (speaking of the instruments in worship) said the Lord "*...left the instruments all out ... because he did not want them. This is a divine prohibition ... We cannot worship, and maintain a good conscience, with the organ. We are certain we can worship acceptably without the organ. The friends of the organ do not doubt this.*"—Gospel Preacher, Vol. II, pp.411, 419-423.

11. **Moses E. Lard** said: "*The question of instrumental music in the churches of Christ involves a great and sacred principle...That principle is the right of men to introduce innovations into the prescribed worship of God. This right we utterly deny. The advocates of instrumental music affirm it. This makes the issue. As sure as the Bible is a divine book, we are right and they are wrong....*"—Lard's Quarterly, October, 1867, p. 368.

12. **W. K. Pendleton** (one time President of Bethany College) said: "With respect to instrumental music, I presume that no one at all acquainted with ecclesiastical history will pretend to claim for its introduction in the church any pretense of primitive authority or warrant..."

—Gospel Advocate, 1889, p. 67 & Millen. Har., 1868, pp. 555, 556

13. **John F. Rowe** said: "*There is just the same scriptural authority for the use of the organ in Christian worship as there is for the use of the mass, image worship, invocation of saints, purgatory, auricular confession, etc., in Christian worship...*"

—History of Reformatory Movements, pp. 318, 322

14. **Dr. Robert Richardson** said: "As it regards the use of musical instruments in church worship, the case is wholly different. This can never be a question of expediency, for the simple reason that there is no law prescribing or authorizing it..."—Life and Times of John F. Rowe, p. 117.

15. **F. G. Allen** (editor of various papers) said: "*I regard the use of the organ in the worship a violation of one of the fundamental principles of our plea for restoration and unity...*"—"What Shall We Do About the Organ?" pp. 12, 13.

16. **President John W. McGarvey** (College of the Bible, Lexington, Ky.) said: "*I hold that the use of the instrument is sinful, and I must not be requested to keep my mouth shut in the presence of sin, whether committed by a church or an individual. \* \* \* The party which forces an organ into the church against the conscientious protest of a majority is disorderly and schismatical, not only because it stirs up strife, but because it is for the sake of a sinful innovation upon the divinely authorized worship of the church; and, inasmuch as the persons thus acting are disorderly and schismatic, it is the duty of all good people to withdraw from them until they repent. — It is universally admitted by those competent to judge that there is not the slightest indication in the New Testament of divine authority for the use of instrumental music in Christian worship....*"—In Apostolic Times,

1881, & "What Shall We Do About the Organ?" pp. 4, 10

17. **David Lipscomb** (Editor of the Gospel Advocate for nearly half a century) said: "It seems there cannot be a doubt but that the use of instrumental music in connection with the worship of God, whether used as a part of the worship or as an attractive accompaniment, is unauthorized by God and violates the oft-repeated prohibition to add nothing to, take nothing from, the commandments of the Lord. It destroys the difference between the clean and the unclean, the holy and the unholy, counts the blood of the Son of God unclean, and tramples under foot the authority of the Son of God. They have not been authorized by God or sanctified with the blood of his Son. \* \* \* God only has the right to prescribe conditions and ways of worshiping him. All his appointments for service and worship are revealed by the Holy Spirit, sealed by the blood of Jesus Christ,

and are recorded in the Word of God. To worship him in ways not required by him is to reject God as the only Lawmaker, trample under foot the authority of the Son of God; is to count the blood of the covenant an unholy thing, and do despite unto the Spirit of Grace. (Heb. 12:28, 29) \*

\* \* The introduction of the organ violates the fundamental law: 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.' To use the organ is to serve someone else. 'In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.' (Matt. 15:9)..."

NOTE: Although none of the men quoted above are authoritative (only the Word of God is), their quotations prove the above argument is wrong! Many others could be given, but the quotations given should be adequate. (To be cont'd) (CRS)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS at Walnut Ridge, AR, April 20-24, 2008 --- Carrol R. Sutton, preaching. Make plans to come and be with us.**

## SENTENCE SERMONS

Share your joy! It will bless others and mean more to you.

\* \* \* \*

No matter how high a man may rise, he needs someone to look up to.

\* \* \* \*

Don't brag - it is not the whistle that pulls the train!

\* \* \* \*

Home is the place where the great are small and the small are great!

\* \* \* \*

It is wrong to be false to the true God, and to be true to a false god.

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