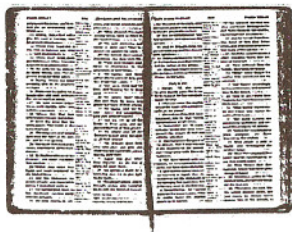


# THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 FACTS ABOUT "THE FAITH"

The expression "the faith" is found a number of times in the New Testament. It has reference to "the system of faith", the gospel, the law of Christ, the perfect law of liberty, the Word of Christ, etc. It is "the Word" that produces faith in our hearts. (See Rom. 10:17). It is the message that Jesus wanted His disciples to go into all the world and preach. The hearing of "the faith" produces personal faith in us.

HERE ARE SOME FACTS ABOUT "THE FAITH."

1. There is only "one faith"! In Eph. 4:4-6 Paul declared that "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all..." Observe the fact that Paul says "There is...one faith..." This is simple and plain. It does not mean two or more. It means only one!

2. It can and should be preached! Paul said, "But they had heard only, that he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed." (Gal. 1:23). In Mark 16:15 Jesus told the apostles to "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

3. It can and should be obeyed! In Acts 6:7 we read: "And the word

of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith." (Also see 2 Thess. 1:6-10; Rom. 6:17-18).

4. It can (and should be) contended for. Jude 3 says: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write to you, and exhort you, that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Paul said: "...that ye stand fast in the one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." (Phil. 1:27). NOTE: We are to earnestly strive, fight as we contend.

5. It can be destroyed. The churches of Judea had heard "That he (Saul-ed) which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed." (Gal. 1:23). It is possible for people today to destroy the faith.

6. One can depart from the faith! In 1 Tim. 4:1 Paul said: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." WARNING: Don't depart from or destroy "the faith"! (CRS)

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial...

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

(NO. 22)

As we continue our study of singing (only) and the use of mechanical instruments of music by saints in the worship of God, let us now consider some "miscellaneous facts".

#### **SOME MISCELLANEOUS FACTS**

1. IF CHRISTIANS GO BACK TO THE LAW (GIVEN BY MOSES) TO JUSTIFY CIRCUMCISION, ANIMAL SACRIFICES & OFFERINGS, AND MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, ETC. AS WORSHIP TO GOD, *they have fallen from grace!* (See John 1:17; Gal. 5:1-4; Lev. 12:3; Numbers 7; Psalms 150, etc.).

2. IF THE ISRAELITES HAD OFFERED A DOG AS (OR FOR) A TRESPASS OFFERING AS WELL AS A HE-LAMB, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ANOTHER KIND OF ANIMAL AND IT WOULD

HAVE BEEN AN ADDITION TO GOD'S WORD! (See Lev. 14:12-13).

WE ARE TO PREACH "THE GOSPEL." If we preach "Mormonism" it is an addition to God's Word because it is another kind of message. (See Mk. 16:15; Col. 1:5; Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 2:2; 4:2; etc.).

PENITENT BELIEVERS ARE TO BE BAPTIZED (BURIED IN WATER AND RAISED). If we also sprinkle water on a person it is an addition to God's Word because it is another kind of action. (See Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12; etc.).

CHRISTIANS ARE TO EAT BREAD IN THE LORD'S SUPPER. If we eat blackberry jam it is an addition to God's Word because it is another kind of food. (See 1 Cor. 11:23-24; etc.).

IF WE PLAY A MECHANICAL INSTRUMENT OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP, IT IS AN ADDITION TO GOD'S WORD BECAUSE WE HAVE ADDED ANOTHER KIND OF MUSIC TO GOD'S COMMAND TO SING. (See Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; etc.).

NOTE: It is wrong to add to the Word of God! (See Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19; James 1:25; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 John 9-11; etc.).

3. NOTICE THAT DAVID DID A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT WE ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO DO TODAY.

(1) David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. (1 Chron. 21:26).

(2) David engaged in carnal warfare. (Psalms 18:34, 37-41).

(3) David hated the congregation of evil doers. (Psalms 26:5).



(4) David hated God's enemies and counted them as his enemies. (Psalms 139:20-22).

(5) David prayed for his enemies to be cut-off and destroyed. (Psalms 143:12).

(6) David practiced polygamy. (2 Sam. 12:8; 1 Chron. 14:3).

(7) David burned incense. (Psalms 66:15).

(8) David swore. (1 Kgs. 1:29-30).

(9) David danced. (2 Samuel 6:14).

(10) David played mechanical instruments of music. (2 Samuel 6:5).

NOTE: We have no authority (right) to do any of the above things just because David did them. If we are authorized to do one of the above things, why not all?

4. HERE IS THE AUTHORITY FOR "CHURCH BUILDINGS" (i.e., "MEETING PLACES), WITH "SEATS" AND "LIGHTS, etc.? The command to assemble (Heb. 10:25) necessitates a place to assemble because Christians cannot assemble without a place. Inherent within the command to assemble is the authority for a place to assemble. Since there is no particular place specified, saints obviously have the right to choose (or provide) a place as long as they do not violate some Scriptural principle. It may be a building, tent, under a tree, in a private house, etc. The place may have "seats", "lights", etc. (See Acts 20:8; Rom. 16:3-5; James 2:2-4; etc.).

NOTE: These things come within the scope of the command. They aid in doing what is commanded, but they do not add

to what is commanded!

OBSERVATION: "Playing" does not come within the scope of the command to sing. (See Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16).

5. HERE IS THE ORIGIN OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. Gen. 4:21 says: **"And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ."**

NOTE:

(A) Jubal was a son of Lamech, a descendant of Cain.

(B) Lamech was a polygamist according to Gen. 4:19.

(C) Lamech was a murderer according to Gen. 4:23.

OBSERVATION: Cain & his descendants are the originators of murder, polygamy and musical instruments.

6. HERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WERE PRACTICED BEFORE THE LAW OF MOSES WAS GIVEN.

(1) Polygamy was practiced by Lamech (Gen. 4:19) before the law was given.

(2) Animal sacrifices were practiced before the law was given. (Gen. 4:4; Heb. 11:4).

(3) Circumcision was practiced before the law was given. (Gen. 17:10).

(4) Mechanical instrumental music was practiced before the law given. (Exodus 15:20-22).

OBSERVATION: If one of the above things is Scriptural (authorized) today because it was practiced before the law, why are not all of them?

7. WE ARE TO PRAISE GOD WITH THE FRUIT OF OUR LIPS! Hebrews 13:15 says: **"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."** NOTE: The expression *"the fruit of our lips"* could (and no doubt would)

include singing & praying. It may also include our speaking praises about God, but it could not (and no doubt would not) include playing a mechanical instrument of music to God.

8. AN INFALLIBLY SAFE COURSE! Please consider the following facts about the use of mechanical instrumental music in the worship assemblies of the saints.

(1) It is not according to truth and therefore it cannot be done "**in truth.**" See John 4:23-24; 1:17; 17:17.

(2) It cannot be done "**by faith.**" See Rom. 10:17; 10:8.

(3) It is **unrighteousness.** See Rom.1:16-17; 1 John 5:17.

(4) It is not **a good work.** See 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

(5) It cannot be done "**in the name of**" (i. e., by the authority of) the Lord Jesus. (See Col. 3:17)

(6) It is not taught in **the**

**doctrine of Christ.** 2 Jno. 9-11

(7) There is **no precept** (command or statement), **no approved apostolic example** or **a necessary implication** in the New Testament authorizing the use of mechanical instrumental music in worship today.

OBSERVATION: When we consider the above facts, we must conclude that to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs in worship to God and **not to play** mechanical instrumental music in worship to God is an **infallibly safe course** to follow!

(To be cont'd) (CRS)

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**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**  
*July 20-24, 2008. Carrol R. Sutton, preaching. Make plans to visit with us and please tell others!*

## SENTENCE SERMONS

What we have does not make us wealthy but what we are, and what we give away.

\* \* \* \* \*

Don't pray to be humble and then tell others how humble you are.

\* \* \* \* \*

Do not choose your friends by their outward physical appearance. (Read 1 Samuel 16.7).

\* \* \* \* \*

To be a true peace maker we must first be at peace with God.

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