

Instrumental Music in Worship

Text: Ephesians 5:18-19

Introduction:

- A. Often visitors to our services wonder why there is no instrument of music. Many think we are either too poor or too cheap to afford it.
 - B. It is., rather, a matter of conviction. I do not believe one can use the instrument of music in worship and walk by faith.- 2 Corinthians 5:7
 - C. Is instrumental music in worship acceptable to God?
- I. Arguments for Instrumental Music Answered:
- A. David played on a harp, and he was a man after God's own heart.
 - 1. David also danced, offered animal sacrifices in worship and had at least eight wives. Why not bring that over?- 2 Samuel 6:15-17
 - 2. The Old Covenant is not our guide today.- Galatians 5:3-4
 - B. The New Testament does not forbid it.
 - 1. Whatever is unauthorized is forbidden.- 2 John 9
 - 2. Can you do it and walk by faith?- 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17
 - C. It is only an aid, like song books, pitch pipes, etc.
 - 1. Compare with Noah's ark.- Genesis 6:14; 2 John 9
 - 2. To be expedient, a practice must be lawful.- I Corinthians 10:23
 - D. It is a matter of "Christian liberty."- cf. I Corinthians 8:8-9; James 2:12
 - E. There are harps in Heaven.- Revelation 5:8; 14:1-2 (cf. ASV, NASV); 15:2
 - F. The book of Psalms was not abrogated with the law of Moses.- Luke 24:44
 - 1. cf. John 10:34; Psalm 82:6
 - 2. cf. John 15:25; Psalm 35:19
 - G. The Psalms require an instrument.- Luke 24:44; Ephesians 5:19
 - H. I think instrumental music is pretty (I like it).- So do I, but I also like strawberries on the Lord's table; cf. Colossians 2:20-23
 - I. The word "psallo" means to pluck on an instrument.
 - 1. No standard translation so renders it.- cf. Romans 15:9; I Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; James 5:13 from KJV, ASV, RSV, NASV, And NIV
 - 2. If so, instrument is specified.- Ephesians 5:19
 - 3. If pluck, why only one playing piano or organ?
- II. Arguments against Instrumental Music:
- A. violates law of faith- 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 10:17
 - B. violates law of worship- John 4:24; 17:17; Matthew 15:9
 - C. violates law of unity- I Corinthians 1:10; 1 John 1:3,7
 - D. violates authority of Christ- Colossians 3:17; 2 John 9
- Conclusion:
- No, instrumental music in worship is not acceptable to God.