

Hebrews 7:18 — There was a(n) _____ of the former commandment. The Old Testament law (including the Psalms) has been annulled (made null and void). It is still the word of God, but the commands of Moses and the commands of David are no longer binding on us today (including instrumental music).

Psalm 66:15 — David said he would offer to God _____ sacrifices of fat animals, bulls and goats. Would this authorize us to bring a bull into the church assembly, slit its throat and offer it as a burnt offering today? _____ Does God's being pleased with animal sacrifices and instrumental music under the Old Testament necessarily mean that He would be pleased with such acts of worship today? _____

John 1:17— The law was given by _____, but grace and _____ came through Jesus Christ. We don't look to the Old Testament law to determine how to worship God in truth or to find out how Jesus wants us to sing today. We look to the New Testament Scriptures which sets forth the will of Jesus for us.

John 8:31,32— We are Christ's disciples if we abide in His _____, and then we will know the _____ which will set us free. The truth is found in the words of Jesus and his apostles. Neither Jesus nor His apostles ever even suggested that God desires anything besides "acapella" singing. The truth Jesus has revealed makes no mention of praising God in the church with mechanical instruments.

Old Testament practices such as holy dancing, instrumental music, and animal sacrifices are no longer binding on us now. Today we are under the law of Jesus which authorizes singing only.

Conclusion: Even secular history confirms that instrumental music was not used in the early church until the year 666 when Pope Vitalian introduced the organ into the worship of the apostate church. It was not until over 600 years after the establishment of the church of Christ that someone in rebellion to Christ's teaching authorized a mechanical instrument to be played in Christian worship. Would you like to be one of the few willing to put aside your own likes and dislikes and sing and worship God in the way He requested? _____

In our next lesson we will learn who was permitted to preach and teach when the church gathered together for worship.

OPEN BIBLE STUDIES

By Paul Melton
SINGING
Lesson 11



Name _____

Address _____

Directions: Please locate in your Bible the following references and read each verse carefully before answering each question.

God expects all Christians (regardless of their singing ability) to offer up the "fruit of their lips" in song as worship to Him. As individuals, we are instructed to lift up hymns of praise to God when we are cheerful (James 5:13). However, singing spiritual songs in private is only part of God's will for our lives. To be pleasing to Him, the Christian must also engage in congregational singing each week with other saints.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

Colossians 3:16-17— We are to teach and admonish one _____

in psalms, hymns and _____ songs, singing with grace in our hearts

to the Lord. In this verse, is God requiring us to sing spiritual truths to one another in the public assembly of the church? _____ Are we permitted to hum or whistle to one another during the assembly? _____

John 4:23,24— Here God states that we MUST worship Him in spirit and

in _____. Singing only constitutes "true" worship acceptable to God when it is carried out with the correct **spirit** and attitude, and also in accordance with the **truth** revealed in the New Testament Scriptures.

As you read through the New Testament (Matthew thru Revelation), you will notice that it is **completely silent** about mechanical instruments such as the organ, piano or guitar being played in the assembly of the church. In the New Testament Scriptures, there are approximately eight verses that deal with

music in worship. In these verses, there is not even a hint of any musical instruments being used by Jesus, his apostles or the early church. In every verse, God specified singing as the type of music He wants. Therefore, we do not have the authority to use any type of music different or in addition to what He commanded.

INSTRUMENTS PROHIBITED BY SILENCE

Hebrews 7:14 — Moses spoke _____ concerning priests coming from the tribe of Judah. Moses specified that God wanted all priests to come from the tribe of Levi. Since the Old Testament is silent on this issue and makes no mention of priests coming from these other 11 tribes, was God’s silence actually prohibiting the men of other tribes from becoming priests? ____ In the same way, since the New Testament Scriptures are silent about instrumental music being used in the church assembly, is it prohibited by the silence of God? ____

1 Corinthians 4:6— We are to learn not to go or think _____

what is _____. Since God has written that we sing, are we allowed to go beyond simply singing and add musical instruments? ____

2 John 9 — If we _____ (go beyond the prescribed limits) and do not abide in the _____ of Christ, we do not have God. If we go beyond what Jesus and His apostles taught about congregational singing and start to use organs, pianos, guitars in the assembly, do we have God? ____

ADDITION OR AID?

Some say, “Isn’t the Bible silent about chalkboards, projectors, microphones, church buildings, songbooks, baptisteries, etc? These are not specifically mentioned in the New Testament, yet we have them. And if we can have these things which are not mentioned in the Bible, why can’t we have a piano, organ, guitar or drums?” The answer to these questions can be found by learning the distinction between an **addition** and an **aid**.

Genesis 6:14— God told Noah to make an _____ of _____ wood. Notice what God explicitly commanded. He required that Noah build an ARK, that it be made of WOOD, and that the wood used be GOPHER wood.

ADDITION	AID
Anything different than what God specified is an addition to his commandment. Consider the examples below	An aid is any tool that will help you carry out a commandment of God. Some use the word “expedient” to describe “aids” or “helps.”

ADDITION	AID
ARK — Additions would be making an airplane, a wagon, a car, train	An aid would be an ax, saw, hammer, nails, saws, oxen to haul the wood. By using these tools, he would not be doing anything different than what God commanded. These aids are implicitly included in the command itself.
WOOD — Additions would be using plastic, fiberglass, metal	
GOPHER — Additions would be using pine, oak, poplar	An aid would be a songbook or sheet music to help us sing together the same words. By using a songbook, we are still only singing and nothing more. The songbook is just an aid.
SINGING — Playing an instrument would be an addition. We would no longer be doing exactly what God commanded. We would now be doing something additional, not just singing, but also playing an instrument.	

Ephesians 5:19,20 — God commands us to _____ to one another (KJV says speaking to “yourselves”, the plural “you”, meaning “among yourselves”) in psalms, _____, spiritual songs, _____

and making _____ in your _____ to the Lord. God specifies “heart music”....twanging our heart strings. We are not authorized to play a mechanical instrument in the assembly. That would be acting in addition to what God commanded. We would no longer just be singing, we would be engaging in an activity different than what God required.

Revelation 22:18,19 — John says, “If any man shall _____ to these things (the word of God), God will add to him the plagues written in the book of the Revelation. Since God spoke nothing about playing an instrument in the assembly, would we be adding something extra that Jesus never authorized if we decided to do so? _____

INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES?

Someone might ask, “But didn’t David use instruments to worship God in Psalm 150:4,5? And didn’t God command the 4,000 Levites to play on the special instruments constructed by David specifically for temple worship? (2 Chron.29:25-26; 1 Chron.23:5). If God approved of the Levites and David’s use of instruments, then why not today?” To answer this question, consider the following verses.