

MECHANICAL PRAISE FOR GOD (1)

BY KEITH GREER

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” {John 4:23,24} The use of mechanical musical instruments in worship is one area on which most of the religious world agrees. But the New Testament nowhere condones using instrumental music in the church’s worship services. Many think it strange when they come into the Lord’s church and see the members singing unaccompanied by mechanical instruments. God commanded us to worship Him with the proper attitude and according to the pattern revealed in Divine truth. We don’t use mechanical musical instruments during our worship services because we desire to show Him proper respect and comply with His directives.

Consider some past examples of others who offered worship that was not exactly what God had requested. Cain’s worship was rejected because it was not of faith. *{Genesis 4:1-8}* “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.” *{Hebrews 11:4}* Nadab and Abihu lost their lives for offering “*strange fire before Jehovah which He had not commanded,*” *{Leviticus 10:1-3}* Israel was taken into captivity because she committed spiritual adultery by worshipping other gods. God’s rule gives no consideration to the majority’s preferences or desires. The masses may prefer the sound of mechanical instruments, but God has a different preference. Let us look a little more closely at the subject...

Is Mechanical Instrumental Music Justified? *“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” {Ephesians 5:19}* Where does the New Testament command us to use mechanical musical instruments? EIGHT Bible passages depict the type of MUSIC in worship; each uses a form of the word SING. Can those who believe that God has no problem with mechanical musical instruments in worship produce ONE passage that authorizes it?

Are There Any Examples of the Use of Mechanical Instruments During Worship? *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” {Colossians 3:16}* Surely, in the early-church history recorded in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit could have included one example where the church used mechanical instruments. But He didn’t. There’s not one single New-

Testament example showing any of the congregations using mechanical musical instruments in their worship services. If they did, wouldn't it be recorded in the pages of His Divine word.

Is It Scriptural? *“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” {Colossians 3:17}* This debate could end in a few minutes if the proponents could produce just one passage authorizing the practice. Instead, many arguments are based on passages in the Old Testament, Psalms, and John's vision in Revelation. We no longer live under the Old Law. *“Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” {Colossians 2:14}* Another favorite passage used to justify instrumental music is found in *2 Chronicles 29:25*, *“And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets.”* This was under Old Law not the New Law.

The Revelation imagery is figurative. The harps, if they're literal, heavenly harps, are not in the church. People seem unfazed by the fact that they have to struggle and twist the Bible out of context to justify their practices. God is the final authority in all religious matters—especially those that define the worship He desires to receive from His church. We want only to follow His instructions—shouldn't we all want the same thing? I think people are making this subject much more difficult than it needs to be.
