

## MECHANICAL PRAISE FOR GOD (2)

BY KEITH GREER

**Is it a Good Work?** *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”* {Ephesians 2:10} What qualifies a thing for classification as a good work? It must be an activity called for by God Himself. Is using instruments to accompany singing during worship a work ordained by God? How can one consider a thing a good work if it violates God’s expressed will? Does instrumental music become right because the majority sees no problem with it, the masses demand that it be used, and it appeals to the younger generation? We need to remember one thing—we are worshipping God, not ourselves. God designed worship to please Himself, not the majority of the worshippers.

**Does It Make God’s Word Void?** *“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him”* {2 John 9-11} When a person openly rebels against the teaching in God’s revealed will, he labels that will as unimportant. Do we demonstrate respect for God when we replace His will with our own? Why have the Bible pattern, if we can exchange it for our own? How can religious people profess to love God, and at the same time, show disdain for His instruction? The two positions are incompatible.

**God’s Point of View.** Let’s look at some other passages that express God’s point of view:

*“What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.”* {1 Corinthians 14:15}

*“And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”* {Matthew 26:30}

*“Saying: ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.’”* {Hebrews 2:12}

*“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”* {James 5:13}

*“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”* {Acts 16:25}

*“And that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: ‘For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.’” {Romans 15:9}*

We close with a quote from Bible editor and scholar Moses E. Lard: ***“The question of instrumental music in the churches of Christ involves a great and sacred principle. But for this, the subject is not worthy of one thought at the hands of the child of God. That principle is the right to introduce innovations into the prescribed worship of God. This right we vigorously 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!”***

How simple it is to understand this subject. The Lord’s church does not have the right to change or alter His patterns in any matter—especially in our worship of Him. If we follow His pattern, it will be enough and pleasing to Him. Sadly, the problem today is man is more concerned with pleasing himself than pleasing God, Galatians 1:10. Recently, the Lord’s church in another area, that never used instruments before, has now introduced them into their worship services. What was their reasoning for doing so? “We found out the young people like that music better and we were losing them to other “churches” so we have brought them in to keep our youth.” Unfortunately, God’s word has not changed and such an arrangement will not be accepted by Him! \*\*\*