



The Moment of Truth newsletter

Welcome
All are welcome at each and every service. Visitors are considered honored guests. We encourage everyone to follow along and participate in our worship to God, and we invite you to ask any questions you may have.

January
15, 2012

What to Expect...

Friendliness

You can expect a warm, friendly welcome.

Order

You can expect our worship to be with reverent and orderly (1 Cor. 14:40).

Singing

You can expect congregational singing. Singing is a vital part of our worship. All members of our congregation will blend their voices together in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. The purpose of our songs is to praise God and to teach and admonish one another (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

Giving

You can expect us to give a free-will offering. As the Bible teaches, we give liberally as God has

prospered us, on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2). We do not expect our visitors to give since giving is a responsibility of the members of the congregation.

Prayer

You can expect our public prayers to be led by men (2 Tim. 2:8-13). Prayer is a vital source of strength in a Christian's life.

The Lord's Supper

You can expect us to partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week (Sunday). Jesus instituted this supper as a simple memorial of His death on the cross (Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-26). As partake of the unleavened bread a fruit of the vine, our minds are centered the events of the cross. In this act we have communion or fellowship with Christ (1 Cor. 10:16).

Teaching

You can expect Christ-centered, Bible teaching in our classrooms and pulpit. We believe the Bible to be inspired and authoritative (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

An Invitation

At the close of each sermon you can expect an invitation to become a Christian. The invitation gives one the opportunity to express their faith in Jesus Christ by repenting of their sins, confessing Christ before men and being buried with the Lord in baptism (cf. Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Mt. 10:32; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27).



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Regular Meeting Times:

Sunday: Bible Study - 10:00 am

Sunday: Worship: 11:00 am
and 5:00 pm

Wednesday: Bible Study - 6:45 pm

Bible Classes For All Ages!!!

Join us for a Study of God's Word

Have You Studied Your Bible Today?



The Moment of Truth

Music, Which Kind Has God Authorized? Part 2

We now continue our series of articles concerning:

Arguments Offered to Justify Mechanical Instruments in Worship

“It’s our church tradition.”

Just like in the first century, many in our day have been taken captive by philosophy and empty deceit according to human traditions (**Colossians 2:8**). When asked where authority is found for the use of mechanical instruments in worship, some reason, “It’s our church tradition.” Choosing to adopt a religious practice based on the traditions of men is a flawed practice. Not all traditions are wrong. In fact, we are admonished to retain and preserve the traditions that were delivered (**1 Corinthians 11:2**). In **2 Thessalonians 2:15** we read, “*So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.*” However, any tradition that has not been delivered by Divine revelation must be rejected (**Matthew 15:1; Mark 7:1-13**).

When considering mechanical instruments in worship, no authorized tradition is found anywhere in New Testament. It is God’s desire that we worship Him according to the way He prescribed. The traditions of men simply do not fit into the equation (**Matthew 15:9**).

“I like it. It sounds better. I’m drawn closer to God with it.”

Some have failed to recognize or perhaps they have forgotten that worship is not about amusing ourselves or entertaining others, but communing with God (**1 Corinthians 10:16; Acts 20:7**). To worship God in a way we think best is to be guilty of “will worship.” Let our attitudes be like Christ’s, “*not as I will, but as You will*” (**Matthew 26:42; John 4:34**).

“The book of Revelation mentions harps in heaven, if they have mechanical instruments of music in heaven, why not on earth?”

This argument is based on **Revelation 5:8; 14:1-2; 15:1-2**. In chapter 5 John describes four living creatures and 24 elders bowing with reverence before the Lamb of God, holding harps and presenting to Him bowls full of incense representing the prayers of the saved.

“Several factors regarding the context in the book of Revelation make this argument an inappropriate application: (1) the language is symbolic. (2) The four living creatures and 24 elders were celestial beings, not saints on earth (5:8); (3) they had golden bowls of incense, so if playing harps show that the employment of instruments of music is proper, then the burning of incense in worship would also be required. (4) If the harps and their owners are literal, then only 144,000 literal unmarried Jews were able to learn this song (14:1-4). (5) In 15:2, the harpists were standing on a sea of glass, so if the harps are literal, should there also be glass on which the church on earth must stand?” (Commentary on the Book of Revelation, Robert Harkrider, page 174).

Consider also the use of similes. In Revelations 14 and 15, John compares the singing that is offered to harps, using the words “as” or “like” which are comparison terms, much like how... Continues on pg. 3

Test your Bible Knowledge

Private Bible Studies Available Anytime!



he compares the revealing of God's message to that of a trumpet. God's voice is likened to "the roar of many waters," or the rainbow that is around the throne of God which symbolizes hope and mercy (**Revelations 4:1-3; 5:8; 14:1-2; 15:1-2; Genesis 9:12-17**).

"The point is that the image becomes disordered if there is an attempt to alter between the symbolic and literal, or to reverse the heavenly scene to an earthly venue... If the sea of glass, the bowls of incense and the number 144,000 are figurative, why not the harps also?" (Harkrider, page 175).

Heaven is a spiritual place, not material, and to suggest that the harps mentioned in the book of Revelation are literal, is to misunderstand the nature of figurative language (**1 Corinthians 15:50**).

"Mechanical instruments are only an aid or an expedient to singing."

Is it true that mechanical instruments are only an aid to singing?

"A cane may aid one in taking a walk, but with or without this device, one is just walking. But if one walks for a while, and then rides a bicycle, he is no longer just walking; something has been added to his mode of travel. Now, he's both walking and riding. A mother sends her son to the market to buy a loaf of bread. He brings the bread home in a bag. The bag is merely an aid. Should he purchase a candy bar as well, he has disregarded

the instruction of his mother by an addition. A man takes his automobile to the service center for an oil change. The attendant may use a wrench and funnel to aid in his replacement of the oil. There is no problem with that. But we all understand that if he changes the spark plugs as well, he has augmented the original instructions." ("Aid or Addition -What is the Difference?" Wayne Jackson, Christian Courier)

When an aid alters God's command it is sin, going beyond that which is written (**2 John 9-10; 1 Corinthians 4:6**). In **Genesis 6:14**, God commanded Noah to build an ark out of gopher wood. When constructing the ark, Noah could have used any tool as an aid in carrying out the command, but if Noah had decided to use oak instead of gopher wood, he would have been guilty of altering the commandment of God.

Do you recall what happened to Uzzah when he reached out and touched the Ark of the Covenant to steady it, when it was being transported on a "new cart" (**2 Samuel. 6:3**)? Uzzah was struck dead for touching the Ark.

When David and his men decided to use a cart (an unlawful aid) to carry the Ark of the Covenant, they altered the commandment, which God had given concerning its transportation (**Exodus 25:12-14**). David, later confessed their failure to act "according to the rule" (**1 Chronicles 15:13**).

When fulfilling the commandment to baptize (immerse)

a person for the forgiveness of sins, a baptistery, or river serves as an expedient way, to fulfill the command, but sprinkling alters the command to immerse (**Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:36-38; 10:47-48**).

Plates and communion cups help to serve the Lord's Supper. They assist in distributing the elements, but if coffee and cake are used instead of unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine, they would be something in addition to what was specified (**Luke 22:19-20**).

In the same way God specified singing in worship. Using a song book or singing from memory in no way alters the command to sing. However, when mechanical instruments are incorporated into worship, it changes "singing" into "singing and playing"! Nowhere in the New Testament can we find disciples using instruments of music in worship as an aid to their singing. The use of mechanical devices is not an aid, but an addition (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**). To be continued.... – Fred Singleton

Search the Scriptures

1. What relationship does God use to describe His relationship with those whose names are in the book of remembrance?

Parent and child

Employer and servant

King and subjects

Priest and parishoner

Answer: Malachi 3:17



Kids Activity Page

Words of Wisdom

“**B**ut when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

Select the Correct Answer

1. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because...

- she is pleasing to my eyes.
- she is of the family of Man.
- she was taken out of Man.
- the name Woman means flesh and bone.

2. Adam was afraid when he heard the voice of God in the garden because...

- he was naked.
- the serpent was not with him.
- he was not at the appointed place at the appointed time.
- the woman was not with him.

S W H F M H G H N I U F S W D
 T D I O U A A T B A X Q E A O
 N O T L U L H G Y N A D E T O
 E O Y O D S F A A K A N D E F
 D D M L T E E I R R N V A R X
 N Z D G F O R H L B K X F C U
 E B D G Y D L N O L A A V E R
 C R E Z E I L E E L E R G E E
 S K V P C F N L F S D D T E G
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 T G O S Q U R P B H J W Q S N

ABRAHAM BARREN CANAAN
 CONCEIVES DESCENDENTS
 EGYPTIAN ELIEZER FOOD
 FULFILLED HAGAR HOUSEHOLD
 ISAAC LAUGHTER PROMISE
 SARAH SEED WATER WILDERNESS



“Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!” (Psalms 141:3).



Memory Verse

“ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin.”



(1 John 1:7).

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