

*In
Search
of*

Truth and Right

Tim Henderson, Editor

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"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." Philippians 4:8 (NASB-U)

A publication
of the
**Wellsburg
church of
Christ**

We would like to invite you to a

Gospel Meeting October 14-19

with speaker:

*Jarrold Jacobs
of Owensboro, KY*

Sunday *10:00 AM*

10:45 AM

6:30 PM

Mon.—Fri. *7:30 PM*

♦ *Plain Bible Preaching*

♦ *No Nightly Collections*

♦ *Simple, Biblical Worship*

Bring your Bibles and join us as we study from the Word of God

Mechanical Instruments of Worship

By: Jarrold Jacobs

Probably one of the most universally accepted practices in the denominational world is the use of mechanical instruments in their worship to God. What does the Bible say about the use of mechanical instrumental music? Is this authorized of God? Is it something that is up to the individual to decide? Let us look and see what the Bible says.

TIMES OF SERVICES	
SUNDAY	
Bible Classes*	10:00 AM
AM Worship	10:45 AM
PM Worship	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	
Bible Classes*	7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)	

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**112 Sunset Ave.
Wellsburg, WV 26070**

Establishing Bible Authority

One thing we must understand is that for whatever we wish to do in this life, we must have Bible authority. Colossians 3:17 teaches: *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."* Therefore, whatever I do must be based upon the positive word of God. In other words, I do not live by God's silence, but by what He has said! *"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God"* (1 Pet. 4:11). God's silence prohibits our action.

The New Testament Does Not Authorize The Playing Of A Mechanical Instrument In Worship.

When we consider the New Testament passages on this subject, we see that each time God's people sang praises without a mechanical instrument. From the time of Christ (Matt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26), we see consistency. God's people sang from the heart, without a mechanical instrument of any kind. Ephesians 5:19 says: *"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"*. Colossians 3:16 is parallel to this: *"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."* Further, the Hebrew writer penned, *"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name"* (Heb. 13:15). There is no doubt that *"the fruit of our lips"* would include such things as: preaching, praying, and singing! Not only do these passages show us the truth, but there are 5 other New Testament passages which declare God's people are to sing.

Justifying The Instrument

Some justify mechanical instruments by suggesting that the Greek word "psallo" implies an instrument. They say that since the word "psallo" means to pluck, or to twang on a string, then these people were "plucking" and "twanging" on harps, or similar things. It is true that the word "psallo" is found in Ephesians 5:19 ("praising") and Colossians 3:16 ("psalm"). Please notice what the word "psallo" means: "to pluck; to vibrate by touching, to twang; in the N.T. *to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song*" (Thayer's, p. 675). W.E. Vine defines "psallo" as, *"to sing a hymn, to sing praise"* (Vine's, p. 740). When Paul used the word "psallo" (to pluck, vibrate), he didn't leave us wondering what the instrument was! He gave the instrument, and it is THE HEART!!! (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Therefore, the instrument on which we play is our heart, not our harp!!

Some justify their playing instruments because David did. Yes, David played on instruments in worship to God because it had been commanded (2 Chron. 29:25; Ps. 81:4). Where is our command in the New Testament to use mechanical instruments?

Conclusion

Let us remember that if it is true that God wants men to play a mechanical instrument, and that "psallo" means to play an instrument, then why is it never translated as such in our Bibles? Why is it always termed "sing" and not "sing and play"? Again, if God wishes for men to use mechanical instruments, then understand that we cannot do this by proxy! God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34; Eph. 6:9). What God told you to do, He told me to do, and vice versa. Therefore, one or a few people playing and the rest of the group singing will not do. Only those singing and playing are accepted with God if God accepts the instrument. We must all have an instrument to play every time we come to worship. Is this what the bulk of the religious world does? Of course, not! Friends, by simply studying the Bible, you can see that the use of mechanical instruments in the worship to God is not acceptable, but an abomination! God wants us to sing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15; 1 Cor. 14:15; Jas. 5:13).

If we don't forgive we're paralyzed

By: Gary Henry

"And Joseph said to his brothers, 'Please come near to me.' So they came near. Then he said: 'I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life'" (Genesis 45:4,5)

As important as it is to make forward progress, we often put ourselves in a position where it's impossible to do so. We paralyze ourselves by failing to forgive. Having done little to rid our hearts of resentment, we find that our minds do little but replay the past. Energy that should be spent building a better future is wasted debating our case and demanding apologies.

But consider Joseph. His brothers had sold him into slavery, an act that was not only unjust but treacherously so. He might have spent the rest of his life looking for a chance to settle the score for this grievance, but instead he jumped at the first opportunity to extend forgiveness. What can we learn from him?

To forgive others, we don't have to wait until they seek our forgiveness. When Joseph forgave his brothers, they had not done anything to show that they recognized their wrong or that they were sorry for having done it, apparently. Yet Joseph saw the wisdom of extending his forgiveness unilaterally and unconditionally.

To forgive others, we don't have to wait until they have received God's forgiveness. Our forgiveness and God's forgiveness are two different things. To open the path to progress in our own lives, we may need to go ahead and forgive someone as Joseph did. God's forgiveness, however, has some conditions attached to it, and two of these are godly sorrow and repentance (2 Corinthians 7:8-10). It may be a long time after we have forgiven someone before they seek God's forgiveness and receive it on His terms. During this time we can release the part of the debt that is owed to us. We can simply turn the matter over to God, to be dealt with in His time (1 Peter 4:19). He can be counted on to do what is perfectly right.

Granted, there are times when it's wise to await the other person's repentance before God (Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 15:11-32), but even in these instances we can still let go of ill will and focus on reaching forward. When it comes to crooked things, it's a lot easier to straighten out those in the future than those in the past.

"It is the act of forgiveness that opens up the only possible way to think creatively about the future at all." - Desmond Wilson

News N Notes

Our Gospel Meeting—October 14-19 with Jarrod Jacobs.

Remember these in your prayers:

- **Blake Headen**, Alberta's husband recovering from surgery and facing future cancer treatments.
- **Blake Swanson**, Dorothy Lancaster's grandson
- **Terry Smith, Jr.**, dealing with cancer treatments.
- **Virginia Malick**, Peggy Miller's mother
- **Amanda Dowdy & Mabel Fleming**, also **Joyce Coen** taking care of Amanda & Mabel.
- Terry Smith's brother **George**
- **Ed & Marie Roberts**, & Ed's father, **Jim Roberts**.
- **Ila Marshall**, Harold Marshall's mother
- **Cary & Grace Lancaster**

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll
- Pauline Sellers
- Rhea Henthorn

Shut-ins:

- Ethel Mahan
- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap