

WHY CHURCHES OF CHRIST DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC #2

There is only one reason and one reason alone why churches of Christ (the church we read about in the New Testament) do not use any kind of mechanical instruments of music in worship. THERE IS NO SCRIPTURE FOR IT! There is no man alive or dead that can point to a passage that authorizes their use.

The burden of proof falls upon those who use them. So, we ask, where is the book, chapter and verse that authorizes their use? Surely you will agree that no man has a right to make a law that God did not make, nor to ignore a law that God did make. Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6, and Revelation 22:18-19, all forbid adding to or subtracting from the Bible.

There is Bible authority to "SING" in worship, but no authority to "PLAY" in worship. "**Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord**" (Eph. 5:19). "...**Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord**" (Col. 3:16). In EVERY instance we read of music in the worship of the church of the New Testament, it is always singing, not playing — vocal, not mechanical.

There are many New Testament principles that prohibit the addition of mechanical instruments of music in worship to God.

First Peter 4:11 says that "If any man speak, let him speak as the

oracles of God." The use of man-made instruments of music in worship are not found in the "oracles of God." Therefore, when they are used, it is not speaking as the oracles (word) of God.

Second Timothy 3:16-17 says the scriptures furnish us unto "*all good works.*" But nowhere do the scriptures furnish us with authority to use man-made instruments of music in the worship of the church. Therefore, they do not constitute "good works."

Second Peter 1:3 says we have been given "*all things that pertain to life and godliness.*" Yet the scriptures do not give us man-made instruments of music to be used in the worship of the church. Therefore, their use does not pertain to "life and godliness."

Colossians 3:17 says that whatever is done "*in word or deed*" is to be done "*in the name of the Lord*" (i.e., by his authority — acting on his authority). But the Bible does not mention man-made instruments of music in the worship of the church. Therefore, they cannot be used "in his name." They are not employed by his authority, his approval, his sanction, his endorsement, his consent, nor his blessing.

No matter what argument is used to support them, the question remains: Are mechanical instruments of music authorized in the worship of the church? The answer is a resounding No, NO! You will search in vain to find them!

—Garland M. Robinson