

WHY CHURCHES OF CHRIST DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC #7

MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC ARE NOT SIMPLY AN “AID” TO THE SINGING

The argument is often made that mechanical instruments of music are simply AIDS to the singing. It is asserted that they are to “singing” what “glasses” are to seeing, what “shoes” are to walking, or what “gloves” are to working. Therefore, it is contended that they are approved and permitted in worship to God. However, it has been shown in previous articles in this series that there is absolutely NO AUTHORITY in the Bible for their use. Not one single verse can be shown to support and defend them. If so, where is that verse?

Are mechanical instruments of music simply an AID which helps to carry out the command to SING?

There is a vast difference between an AID and an ADDITION. When one wears glasses he is still simply seeing. There’s not a different “kind” or “mode” of vision. He is not seeing in addition to something else. When shoes are worn, they aid our walking, there’s not a different “type” or “mode” of traveling being done. We are not both “walking” and “flying” when we wear shoes. When one wears gloves he is still working. There’s not a different “kind” of work being done.

When mechanical instruments of music are used in worship, they do far

more than aid the singing, they **add to** the singing. They are a different kind of music entirely. They are used to make music independently of singing. When they are used, there is both “singing” and “playing.” They accompany the singing for which there is no authority in God’s inspired Word.

It is also argued that if mechanical instruments of music add to the singing, then “tuning forks” and “pitch pipes” also add to the singing. But it is not the case that tuning forks and pitch pipes add to the singing. When either one is used, it simply sets the pitch for which a song is to be sung. By the time the singing starts, they are silent. They are not played in accompaniment with, or in addition to, the singing. Both produce only a single note! Try “playing” them and singing “Rock of Ages.” They are true aids, not additions. They fit into the same category as song books. When song books are used, only vocal music is present, not another “kind” of music.

God’s authority still reads, “*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]. These verses cannot be obeyed by using a man-made mechanical instrument of music. Only the voice can do that!

—Garland M. Robinson