

## A Study of Instrumental Music

by Kent A. Field

### True Worship - John 4:1-26

#### Introduction:

#### A Why Did Jesus Come?

1. To reconcile man to God. Rom. 5:6-11; Lk. 19:10; 1 Tim. 1:15.
2. To reveal an avenue of worship for constant fellowship and communion with God. Heb. 10:1-18

#### B. Analysis of the text.

1. Vs. 1-9 Jesus bridges the gap of the Samaritans and the Jews.
  - a. They had been arguing ever since 2 Kings 17 over the building of the Temple
  - b. There was a racial gap
  - c. There was a sexual gap--not to talk to the women in public
  - d. And there was a moral and spiritual gap.
2. Vs. 10-18 Jesus saw her need.
  - a. The subject of worship is resulting to avert further embarrassment.
  - b. Rom. 1:20
3. V. 20 Confusion regarding "true" worship.
4. V. 21 "True" worship goes beyond "place" (cf. Deut. 12).
5. V. 22 It is possible to worship in ignorance! (not acceptable).
6. V. 23 True worship is distinctive in nature.
7. V. 23 God delights in our adoration. Heb. 13:15,16; Phil. 4:18,19.
8. V. 23 God desires true worship. 1 Sam. 15:22,23; 13:5-14.
9. V. 24 Our trust and obedience can be measured in our worship.

#### I. What Is Worship?

##### A. Worship

1. Anglo-Saxon -- "worth-service" equals "wor"- "ship"
2. Therefore, it is reverence to one of worth.

##### B. Derivation

1. There are nine Greek words that describe the idea of or veneration, glory, esteem, pious, and regard.
2. The 2 most common
  - a. "Latreuo"--to serve, to minister, as with one's life.
  - b. "Proskuneo"--to serve or minister to by kneeling or prostration, to do homage. This is the specific act of worship.
  - c. examples include:
    1. Mt. 4:10 - used with Satan with Latreuo.
    2. Phil. 3:3 contrast of true and false worship.
    3. Ac. 24:14 serve God with Latreuo
    4. Ac. 7:7 serve with Latreuo
    5. Mark 15:19 Proskuneo in false and mocking worship.
    6. John 4:20-25 is discussing Proskuneo

- d. From Creation
  1. Ps.96:8 God has deserved man's reverence.
  2. Phil.4:18 God has desired man's reverence.
  3. John 4:24 God has designated the kind!

## II. False Worship - Examples

- A. Old Testament
  1. Cain and Abel Gen.4:3ff; 1 John3:11,12
  2. Nadab and Abihu Lev. 10:1-2
- B. New Testament
  1. "vain" equals ~~Q~~ worship Mark 7:6-9 (Mt. 15) "heartless"
  2. "ignorant" worship Acts 17:22,23
  3. "will" worship Col. 2:18-23 W.E. Vine says "voluntary adopted worship whether unbidden or forbidden."

## III. What Is True Worship???

- A. It is stated in John 4:24
  1. object equals God
  2. attitude equals in spirit
  3. action equals in truth
- B. True Object - Worship the Father! Why? Psalms 9; Ps. 100.
  1. Acts 14:15-17 (cf. 1 Thss.1:9,10).
  2. Acts 17:22-31
  3. Acts 19:26-27
  4. Our idols to give up . . .
    - a. covetousness - Col. 3:5
    - b. popularity - John 12:43
    - c. pleasure - 2 Tim. 3:4
    - d. lust - Rom.1:21-24; 2 Tim.3:2; Mt.16:24
- C. True Attitude - In Spirit
  1. God always tests the heart of man.
    - a. Josh.24:14; Joel 2:12-14; Micah 6:6-8; Jer.17:9,10; Ps.139:23-24.
    - b. Mt. 22:34-40; Heb. 4:12-13; Acts 1:24;15:8.
  2. The Worshipping Heart
    - a. vanity
    - b. unmerciful - Mt. 5:23,24;6:14,15.
    - c. prayer - Mt. 6:5-8
    - d. communion - 1 Cor. 11:23-31
    - e. singing - Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
    - f. giving - 2 Cor. 9:7;8:8
    - g. heartless hypocrisy - Mk. 7:6,7; 2 Tim. 3:5
- D. True Action - In Truth
  1. Standard for acceptable worship. We will draw near to God
    - a. in faith - Heb. 11:6 (cf. 2 Cor.5:6ff; Heb.10:22).
    - b. according to truth - John 4:24 (cf.Jno.18:37,38; 8:31,32)
    - c. with respect for the authority of Christ (Mt. 28:18-20)

2. \*\*How Is Christ's Authority Expressed?
  - a. Direct Statement
    1. declarative - Mark 16:16
    2. imperative - Acts 2:38
    3. interrogative - 1 Cor. 1:13 (the force of a question)
    4. hortatory - Heb. 6:1ff (exhortive or advisory)
  - b. By Implication
    1. Gen. 13:1 - Lot out of Egypt
    2. Mt. 3:16 - Jesus up from the water
    3. Acts 22:16 sins not yet washed.
  - c. Approved Example
    1. Matt. 26:26ff - fruit of vine and unleavened bread for Supper
    2. Acts 20:7 meeting upon the first day of the week
    3. Eph. 5:19 singing, making the melody in the heart
    4. Illustrated: Acts 8:26-39
    5. Examples are illustrated or classified:
      - a. sinful then and now,
      - b. optional then and now,
      - c. obligation then and now.
  - d. Expediency
    1. Criteria: 1 Cor.6:12;10:23;4:17;7:14; etc.
      - a. must be authorized! even for expediency!
      - b. advantage will be practical in application.
      - c. respect for the authority of elders (not beyond the Word).
    2. \*Therefore anything not excluded by specific instruction.\*\* and will be advantageous in doing God's will.
3. Conclusions:
  - a. Must heed Christ - Acts 3:22,23; Jno.12:48-50; Mt.17:5; Mt.28:18; Heb. 1:3
  - b. All truth has been revealed - Jno.16:7-13; 2 Tim.3:16,17 2 Pt.1:3.
    1. abide in the word - Jno.8:31,32; 3 Jno.3:4; 2 Jno.9-11
    2. do not go beyond - 1 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18-19; 1 Cor.4:6
    3. do not pervert - Gal.1:6-9; 2 Pet.3:16,17; 2 Tim.2:15; Jude 3.

#### IV. Worship Authorized By Christ.

- A. As seen in Apostolic Practice.
  1. Acts 2:42,46
  2. Acts 20:7
  3. 1 Cor. 11:20ff
  4. 1 Cor. 14:12,15,18,19,26,27
  5. 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 8 & 9.
- B. Identified
  1. Reading and teaching God's Word. Acts 2:42;20:7ff; 1 Cor.14:26.
  2. Prayer - Acts 2:42; 12:5,12;20:36-38
  3. Breaking Bread (Lord's Supper) 1 Cor.10 & 11; Acts 2:42; 20:7
  4. Giving - Acts 2:42ff; 1 Cor.16:1,2
  5. Singing - Eph.5:19; Col.3:16; Acts 16:25

C. THE MUSIC AUTHORIZED BY CHRIST\*\*\*\*

1. Analysis: Worship must be in truth and according to Christ's requirements.
2. \*\*Affirmative Obligation. - There is no obligation on the part of anyone to prove a non-action or a non-practice... I have the responsibility of proving my practice to be right! So do you! Col. 3:17 that goes for whatever you do.
3. What has Jesus said regarding music in worship???

SING	*	PLAY (AS ON INSTRUMENT)
1. Mt.26:30; Mk.14:26	*	
2. Acts 16:25	*	"?"
3. Rom.15:9 (cf. Ps.18:49)	*	
4. 1 Cor.14:15	*	1. A command from Christ? NONE!!!
5. Eph. 5:19	*	2. Apostolic teaching? NONE!!!
6. Col. 3:16,17	*	3. N.T. Church Usage? NONE!!!
7. Heb.2:12 (Hb.13:15)	*	
8. James 5:13	*	

4. Arguments used to justify "playing" an instrument in worship.
  - a. "David used it with God's approval!" Ps.150; 2 Chr.29:25
  - b. "There's no specific N.T. condemnation of it!"
  - c. "The Bible doesn't say, 'Thou shalt not'!"
  - d. "You have no authority then for congregational singing, for Eph.5 and Col.3 are in private!"
  - e. "The instrument is not worship, but is only an aid or expedient."
  - f. "Instruments will be used in Heaven!" Rev.5:8; 14:1,2;15:1-3
  - g. "The very meaning of the word "Psallo" requires the use of an instrument
  - h. "The Psalms were always sung with an instrument!"
5. ANSWERS FROM THE BIBLE TO THEIR POOR ARGUMENTS...
  - a. It is true, David did use instruments with God's approval.
    1. But he lived under the Old Testament, we are under the New
    2. There were very specific times the instrument was to be used, see 2 Chr.29:25ff to see that the playing occurred only during the burning of the animal sacrifice!
    3. David also offered animal sacrifices with God's approval under the O.d Covenant; does that mean you can today???
    4. We no longer live under the Old Testament, but the New - Hb.8:6,8-12;9:15-18;10:9-10:12:24; Gal. 5:2-4;3:24;5:18, etc.

- b. It is true, the Bible doesn't say the words, "Thou shalt not"
  1. neither does it say, "Thou shalt" use an instrument!
  2. neither does it say, "Thou shalt not use hamburgers and Coke for the Lord's Supper!" I suppose I should find them at your next Lord's Supper? If not, why not? Whatever your reasons, you must apply them to all avenues of worship!
  3. The Bible doesn't have to say, "Thou shalt not" because "specification by example excludes all other possibilities". see Heb.7:12-17 of the priesthood; Heb.1:5 "to which of the angels"
- c. There is plenty of authority for congregational singing!
  1. All Greek scholars agree:"that the context indicates a corporate function."
  2. The pronoun "Heautois" means "one another" as in both Eph. 5:19 and in Col.3:16.
  3. In Col.3:16 "in you"- "en humin"-in you all or among you", 1 Cor.11:18.
  4. They admit regulation must be followed, yet they admit that they have no direct authority for what they practice thus they are in violation of their own argument!
  5. Notice also that Eph.5 & Col.3 are specific for any worship, no matter what or where the situation.
  6. They admit we need authority for what we do, and they admit that there is no N.T. authority for instrumental music!
- d. Their use of the instrument is more than just an aid or an expedient!
  1. First, if they want to now say that it is not worship, but an aid to their worship, then they are inconsistent with their argument that we can use it as worship because David did.
  2. Expedients or aides are fine when they are not excluded by more specific terms, and they are authorized by direct statement, implication from the text, approved example!
    - a. notice the following:

<u>Generic Commands</u>	-	<u>Specific Terms</u>
2 Kings 5:11ff "cleanse"	-	7 times in the Jordan
Gen 6:14 "build an ark"	-	out of gopher wood
Nu 19:1ff "make an offering"	-	using a red heffer
Lev.10:1,2 "make an offering"	-	altar of fire (Lev.6:9,16)
Matt 26:26-29 "Lord's Supper"	-	bread and fruit of vine
Eph.5:19 "sing"	-	make the melody in your heart.

3. If they use this argument of expediency they are also inconsistent with their argument from the word "psallo" which they say always means to play! If that were true, then playing an instrument is no longer an "expedient" but is a necessity, and for every single member!
4. I would also like to ask them is their use of the instrument required?, or incidental?, or an addition???
5. What is an aid? and what is an addition?

Gen. 6:14 - required -- an aid (expedient) -- addition(excluded)  
(Deut.4:2)

- |                               |                       |  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
|                               |                       |  |
| 1. build an ark - tools(make) | -                     | build an ark and a house                   |
| 2. certain dimensions         | - place -             | building a larger boat                     |
| 3. kind of wood               | - scaffolding -       | changing the wood                          |
| 4. specific sealer            | - animals for labor - | change the sealer<br>or adding compounding |

6. Is an Instrument An Essential Aid??
  - a. NO!
  - b. What about those that are doing without it?
  - c. It is not even needed to get pitch, otherwise the players would have to play a  $\frac{1}{2}$  beat ahead and the congregation would have to play "catch up"
  - d. What is required? - truth, tone, key to start.
  - e. What would be an aid? Books, overlays, song books are scriptural for this is what the N.T. church used, the Psalms.
- e. They say that instruments are used in Heaven. . .
  1. However, as we can see from the entire book of Revelation, their references were not to any literal usage of instruments seeing that this was visionary speech.
  2. Besides, there are many things that are happening in Heaven, however this does not necessarily give us authority to practice the same on earth.
    - a. In heaven the figure said of a crystal sea, and gates of pearl, LITERALLY?? Of course not.
    - b. If this was a literal reference to how the church will be worshipping in heaven, then why is there no example to the church on earth in the first century doing the same?
- f. They say "Psallo" requires an instrument. . .
  1. Note: to take this view is now inconsistent with their argument that it was only an expedient.
  2. The word did mean literally, "to touch, twang, or rub, or pull," like shooting an arrow or pulling one's hair.
  3. The meaning or usage of the word "psallo" changed during N.T. period, so say all the scholars on the Greek.
  4. The word "psallo" or other forms of the word have been translated and used 5 times in the N.T. Rom.15:9; 1 Cor.14:15; Eph.5:19; James 5:1

5. Even in the Old Testament there were different words for singing and playing.
  - a. There was "sher" which means to "sing"
  - b. There was "Nagan" = "play"
  - c. Then there was "zamar" = "sing or play" used in Ps 18:49.
  
6. According to both Greek and Hebrew scholars, "the word 'psallo' requires that the instrument is to be named when it is actually referring to an instrument."
  1. It is difficult (not possible) to find a meaning in the verb form which is not in the noun derivative.
  2. The Psalms were sung in the Jewish Synagogues "acapela" because
    - a. Considered violation to play instrument on Sabbath,
    - b. to avoid Pagan excesses,
    - c. used only in Temple where animal sacrifices were made, 2 Chr.29
    - d. There were many references and long quotations of the Psalms throughout the N.T. without an instrument ever once being referred to.
    - e. We see in 1 Cor.14:26, we can see that N.T. Psalms also were there.
    - f. Compare Ps.110;4 and Jno.12:34; Ps.82:6 & Jno.10:34; Ps.35:19 and Jno.15:25; Ps.14:1,2 and Rom.3:10,11-14, 19 and Ps.33:1,2
  
6. Vocal Music Is Confirmed By History
  - a. American Encyclopedia pg. 688 states that the very first attempt to introduce instruments into Christian worship was about 670AD. But it was immediately rejected as unscriptural. Then in 755AD it was reintroduced and allowed to stay in an already apostate church!
  - b. Chamber's Encyclopedia, Vol.7, p.112 agrees with this only it lists the dates as 666AD and 757AD.
  
7. Consider the comments from the scholars. . .
  - a. Clark's Commentary p.684 - Calvin was against it!
  - b. John Wesley - he did not want it to be heard or seen!
  - c. Adam Clark - also dead set against it!
  - d. Alexander Campbell - was against it!
  - e. Even Charles Spurgeon, a Baptist minister, never allowed an instrument when he preached.

#### CONCLUSION:

- A We reverence and worship God ONLY when we respect Him, His Word, His Silence, and His covenant (Gal. 3:15) .
  
- B. In the passages of the N.T. which we are under, the deal with the subject of music is that there are at least six things that the human voice only can do, and which an instrument cannot!
  1. speak in song,
  2. teach,

3. admonish,
4. sing with the spirit,
5. sing with the understanding,
6. make melody in the heart.

An instrument can do NONE of these. However, the human voice can do all these and thus fulfill all scriptural requirements for music in worship under the N.T.

C. The instrumentalist says that those who will not use the instrument are the ones causing the division, but this is not true.

1. Can we, in truth, worship with an instrument? No.
2. Can they worship, in truth, without an instrument? Yes.
3. So can we, so why don't they throw out the source of division, the instrument, so that we can worship together?
4. They refuse, and thus make themselves the ones who refuse to end division in the body.

D. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments."