

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Why no Instruments?

The Psalmist declared, “O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker” (Psalm 95:6). One of the greatest privileges we have as God’s creatures is that of “kissing toward” our Creator in the reverential adoration called “worship.” When we engage in this great blessing, it should be our utmost desire to approach God in sincerity (Josh. 24:14; John 4:24) and to worship Him with our “whole heart” (Psalm 9:1; 111:1; 138:1). The failure to properly prepare ourselves to approach God causes our worship to become vain and nothing more than noise (Matthew 15:7-9; Amos 5:23).

According to John 4:23-24, our Heavenly Father is seeking “true worshipers.” True worship requires respect: ***“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him”*** (Ps. 89:7). True, genuine worship gets God’s attention (Rev. 8:1-4). When we worship, our Lord Jesus Christ is with us: ***“In the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee”*** (Hebrews 2:12).

If our worship is to be pleasing and acceptable to God, rather than vain and meaningless, we must worship according to the truth of God’s Word (Jn. 17:17), using it to establish authority for what we practice (Col. 3:17). This may be done by direct, explicit command, by example or by necessary inference. As Christians, we are to worship God according to the new covenant He has made with us (Heb. 1:1-2; 9:16-17). This new covenant includes new instructions for worship.

Generally, when someone visits a worship assembly or even hears that we belong to the church of Christ, the first question they ask is, “Why do you not use musical instruments?” Based on the means of establishing Biblical authority listed above the absence of authority for the use of mechanical instruments can be easily established by simply reading the entire New Testament. In the New Testament of Jesus Christ, we find no explicit command to use mechanical instruments, we have no example of Christians using mechanical instruments and no passage(s) in the New Testament which cause us to infer that instruments were used or may have been used by our first century brethren.

The argument that the New Testament “does not say not to” is one of the first lines of defense for those who desire instrumental music in worship. One of the things we learn from the Old Testament is that our God has ever been a God of details. For example, in Genesis 6 when God gives Noah instructions for building the ark, He does not forbid Noah to use oak, maple, or cedar. He simply told Noah what to use, gopher wood. Also noteworthy is that the Israelites were never forbidden to move the Ark of the covenant using carts and oxen as David attempted to do (1 Chron. 13 & 15). They were simply told how to move it (Num. 4:15). What we see in these cases is the “law of exclusion” in action. When our Lord tells us what to do and how to do it all else is excluded.

Another common argument used goes something like this: “David used instruments, therefore so can we.” Evidence can easily be found in the Psalms (Ps. 33, 150) to support the claim that David used instrument in the worship he offered. The first part of the assertion is clearly correct. However, in order to return to the Old Testament for authority to use mechanical instruments, one must reject the authority of Christ, who sealed His

new covenant with His own blood and Who by changing the priesthood necessarily changed the law (Hebrews 9:16-17)!

We must remember that our Lord has infinite capability in His use of language and the written Word. His vocabulary is not limited, nor is it incomplete, He forgets nothing. Several times in the New Testament Christians are commanded to sing (Ephesians 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15). In these passages we find a beautiful synopsis of the power of Christians blending their voices together in worship to God. If His desire is to be worshipped and praised by the use of our voices accompanied by the beauty of stringed instruments, drums, and trumpets, I cannot help but think He would have instructed us to do so.

(Continued on Page 3)

Prayer Request

Bonnie Sorenson was diagnosed with Covid last week. She will be in quarantine for a few days. Keep Bonnie in your prayers that she has a quick recovery.

Brad Armentrout (the husband of Devida's niece) was scheduled for a major hernia surgery on Thursday, January 26th at Dr.'s West in Columbus, Ohio. The family has requested prayers for Brad.

Louis Ochoa started his chemo treatments last week. He needs prayers for victory over his prostate cancer.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Maria Baeza; Betty Branson; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Cathy Eastwood; Mark Erwin; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Lon & Lana Howard; Paula Jones; Charles Lewis; Jason Moore; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Louis Ochoa; Ken & Angie Orr, Bruce & Trina Plyler; Terresia Weaver; Luke Wells; Carolyn Wilkerson; Ron Williams; Bill Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Glenna Callendar; LaVerne Couch, James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley & Marilyn Upshaw.

Events

Watch "***In Search of the Lord's Way***" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Youth

Bible Knowledge ... "Facts It to Me"

Joseph's brothers didn't sell him directly to the Egyptians. They sold him to some Midianites who sold him to Potiphar in Egypt (Genesis 38:36)

When Elisha learned that Jericho had bad water, he made it better by tossing in about a bowl full of salt water. (2 Kings 2:21)

Office News

Today is our "**Fifth Sunday Service**". We will have a "Potluck Luncheon" following our service this morning then followed by our evening service. All our visitors are welcome.

The items requested for our "**Food Pantry**" for the weeks of 2/5 and 2/12 are: canned meat, boxes of Jello and puddings.

Why no Instruments?

(Continued from page 2)

Long ago Jehovah God said, ***“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts”*** (Isaiah 55:8-9). God’s instruction for us to sing, making melody in our hearts is a wonderful commentary on what really matters to our Creator and God. To my human ears, singing accompanied by the music of a well-played instrument is beautiful; but then I am not able, as God is, to hear the music and melody of the heart of man as he humbly worships His Savior. “Why no instruments?” Because our God desires “the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name” (Hebrews 13:15).

Clay Bond

A New Year—A New Day

People measure time in various ways, but most use, as a point of reference, January 1, the beginning of a new year. Many use this point in time to review the events of the past year and to ponder the uncertainties of the future. Some would like to erase some things from the record or, at the least, would like an opportunity to redo them. Based on experiences of the past and in anticipation of the future, people make resolutions, or mentally resolve to do things differently during the new year. Doing so a person might ask himself the following questions:

Am I satisfied with my service to God during the past year? - 1. Was I regular in attendance throughout the entire year? — 1. Did I truly give of my means as I have prospered? — 3. Did I give of myself in service to others? — 4. Was I unkind to others, either by word or deed? — 5. Did my presence here on earth make this a better place to live for all mankind? — 6. Did I influence anyone to become a Christian or was I instrumental in assisting some Christian to improve his relationship to God? — 7. Was I a stumbling block to members of my family, or friends, or was I a blessing to others?

Am I satisfied with the discharge of my responsibilities as a citizen of this community and country this past year? — 1. Did my actions as a citizen reflect and testify to others my Christian beliefs? — 2. Did I live by the golden rule in my relations with others?

Answering all of these questions truthfully, in all likelihood, one will not score 100%. Some may have scored very low. The beauty of life here on earth is that as long as one has life, he has a new day, a new year—a new opportunity to correct the errors and short comings in his life and to live every day the actions that should characterize a dedicated Christian.

Reflecting on the past and planning for the future, one should think of the New Year as a new day. One should use that new day to be a good citizen in God’s kingdom and a Christian influence in his community.

—Selected

January 29th, 2023

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Allen Weakland
Jon Roemisch
Allen Weakland
Allen Weakland
David Ryan
Doug Guynn
Craig Wesson

P.M.

Allen Weakland
Craig Wesson
Allen Weakland
Allen Weakland
Isaiah Armendarez
Larry May
Cody Wesson

Lords Supper

Gary Loving
Tommy Garcia
Phil Halbert
Richard Siler

Bill Ryan
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209 *Deacon:* John Wood 413-7444 — *Pulpit:* Scot Straw 288-4533 — *Table:* Bill Ryan 352-4871 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Collections:* Cody Wesson

Sunday AM

“Resolving Conflict Biblically” – Part 1
(Joshua 22:10-12)

Sunday PM

“Resolving Conflict Biblically” – Part 2
(Joshua 22:10-12)

Our Records

Bible Class... 64
Morning Worship...98
Evening Worship ... 52
Wednesday...76
Contribution...\$4,341.00