

Does the New Testament Condemn Instrumental Music in the Church? (2)

In **Matt. 26:26-28** we have given divine authority for the Lord's Supper. The record reads like this: "*And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*" Other passages give us similar information. They specify bread and the fruit of the vine as the elements to be used to picture to us the body and blood of the Lord. And when Jesus authorized his disciples to use bread and the fruit of the vine as elements for the Lord's supper, he left out light bread (leavened) and water. And the very fact that he left them out is a condemnation of them. The Lord specified the elements to be used, and nothing else can be added or substituted.

The same is true regarding baptism. In **Mark 16:16** Jesus said: "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*" This shows that belief must precede baptism, and no one can be baptized till he first believes. Such excludes infant baptism, for infants cannot believe. So making such practice out of divine legislation. This applies with equal force to the subject of instrumental music: In **Eph. 5:19** Paul declared: "*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*" This tells us definitely the kind of music to make in worship to God. It is not playing but singing. And this excludes instrumental music from the divine arrangement. Instrumental music is thus condemned; God authorized singing and left out instrumental music. Had he wanted instrumental music in Christian worship, he

certainly would have put it in. But he left it out, and that condemns it.

So **Phil. 4:6** condemns praying to the Virgin Mary by specifying God as the one to whom prayers are to be addressed; **Matt. 26:26-28** condemns light bread, water, cake and ice cream or any other elements by specifying bread and the fruit of the vine as the elements of the Lord's supper; **Mark 16:16** condemns the practice of baptizing babies by specifying believers as proper subjects of baptism; and **Eph. 5:19** just as definitely condemns instrumental music in Christian worship by specifying singing as the kind of music to be made in worship to God.

The statement of Paul in **Gal. 1:8** is also a condemnation of all of these practices. He said: "*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*" This limits us to divine legislation in our worship to God. No man can read where the apostles ever preached that men should burn incense, pray to the Virgin Mary, use light bread and water for the Lord's supper or baptize babies. And neither can anyone read where they ever taught that men should worship God with musical instruments. All of these things belong to a gospel they did not preach. Those who use or practice such things place themselves under the curse of heaven. There is not even any principle that was preached by the apostles that could be made to include these things even in a general way. They are distinctly another gospel and belong to the doctrine and commandments of men.

There are many other passages of Scripture in the New Testament that condemn all of these things, not by naming them in so many words, but by presenting certain principles that exclude the wisdom and the will of man.-

Jesus told his apostles to teach men to observe all things he had, commanded. **Matt. 28:20**. But they never taught men to observe any of these practices. Peter said that God had given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3), and Paul said the Scriptures furnish a man completely unto every good work. **2 Tim. 3:16, 17**. But they contain no authority for instrumental music and give no sanction to other religious practices I have mentioned. And on and on we might go with many passages. The fact stands that men who introduce things into worship that God has not authorized are guilty of setting aside the wisdom of God and of following human wisdom. If men want to follow the example of Jesus and his apostles, they can do it by leaving instrumental music out of their worship, for Jesus and the apostles left it out. Those who put it into their service are going contrary to the example left by inspired men. They are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men, and their worship is vain **Matt. 15:9**.

Bible Banner - April 1942

W. Curtis Porter from Charlottesville Beacon

Spring Gospel Meeting

"Grave and Eternal Matters"

Randy Carr

Liberty Church of Christ, Belle, MO

April 26-30, 2009

Sunday: 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Monday – Thursday: 7:00 PM

Wednesday Class: 10:00 AM

Live broadcast at: <http://olathecoc.org>

BIRTHDAY

Leah D. Thrasher, 04-30.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Janice, Jennifer, and Jessica Carter.

Millie Robertson had surgery at Shawnee Mission Medical Center on Wednesday and was released later the same day. She is recovering at home.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Vic Cuney; Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Robin Brown was away on business last weekend. Chris Edwards was away on business last weekend.

MEETING DINNER

Our Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday to coincide with our Gospel Meeting. Please plan to come and welcome brother Carr to Olathe!

MEETING MEALS

If you would like to provide an evening meal for brother Carr during our meeting, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board for the night you would prefer.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

The Ladies Class this week will be taught by brother Carr, so men are encouraged to attend the class this week at 10 AM. Lunch will be provided following the class.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 43; Sunday PM, 32; Wednesday PM, 30.

Those To Serve

April 26, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Joel Nelson
PRESIDE..... John Dodson
ASSIST..... Chris Edwards
ASSIST..... Steven Schleif
CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Dodson

WEDNESDAY 29th

SONG LEADER..... Jeff Nemechek
INVITATION Gospel Meeting

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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