

THE MUSIC GOD COMMANDS BY HIS SON

One of the unique characteristics of the Lord's church in the New Testament is that Christians did **not** use musical instruments when they sang hymns for worship. Faithful Christians will endeavor to hold to that same pattern of the Lord's church **because they seek to do all in the name of the Lord according to His word**. Religious history records that many believers of Christ and churches strayed from the teaching of the gospel and added musical instruments to their worship. Men grew tired of New Testament doctrine and pattern, desiring to please themselves, just as modern churches still seek out ways to satisfy the carnal man in worship.

God ordained music in worship, authorizing Christians to sing. The church which the Lord Jesus established did not and does not use musical instruments in worship. The problem and question of their use in worship did not arise until hundreds of years later when men began introducing them. The **Bible** records Christians singing. For example, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God in prison (Acts 16:25). "Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms." (James 5:13) "Let us offer the sacrifice of praise continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name." (Hebrews 13:15) "I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." (1 Corinthians 14:15) "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word of deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Colossians 3:16)

The Lord has specified singing. The addition of musical instruments is in violation to divine authority because it is a different kind of music. The gospel does not direct us to use or to play instruments to the Lord. The inspired word also limits the songs to "**psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.**" In worship God does not want sounds; He wants words that communicate truth. If He wanted the accompanied sounds of instruments, He would have directed Christians how to do so properly in their worship as He did for the Israelites. Musical instruments do not meet the definition of what is inherent in SPEAKING, TEACHING, ADMONISHING and PRAISING.

An expressed purpose of God-ordained singing is for teaching and admonishing worshippers (Colossians 3:16). This is accomplished when Christians edify one another through spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19). Saints are also called to proclaim praises to their God (1 Peter 2:9). Thus making melody in your heart is to be directed *to the Lord* as believers worship the Almighty. Singing with grace in your heart is a natural expression of joy and happiness (James 5:13). The chords of the human heart are touched by spiritual words when Christians lift up their voices heavenward.

God seeks true worshippers, who worship in spirit and truth, not according to man's traditions. The word of truth directs us in the way we ought to conduct ourselves in the house of the Lord (1 Timothy 3:15). Therefore, disciples of Christ abide in His doctrine and make melody in their hearts according to the commandment of the Lord.