

The Music Question #3

by John Isaac Edwards

Sometimes the question is asked, “If it is wrong to have instrumental music in worship, then why do so many churches have it?” That’s a good question!

1) *Introduced by the Roman Catholic Church.*

According to the American Cyclopaedia, “Pope Vitalian is related to have first introduced organs into some of the churches of western Europe, about 670; but the earliest trustworthy account is that of the one sent as a present by the Greek emperor Constantine Copronymus to Pepin, king of the Franks, in 755” (Vol. 12, p. 688). According to the New Catholic Encyclopedia, Pope Vitalian introduced the organ into the worship of the church at Rome to improve the singing. But, it was not until the ninth century that the organ was “consistently” used, and the thirteenth century before it was “in general use throughout the Latin Church” (Vol. 10, p. 746).

2) *Many Religious Leaders Opposed Its Use.* **John Wesley** (Methodist Church):

“I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither seen nor heard.” **John Calvin** (Presbyterian Church):

“Musical instruments in celebrating the praise of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of other shadows of the law.” **Martin Luther** (Lutheran Church): “The organ in the worship of God is an ensign of Baal.” **Charles Spurgeon** (Baptist Church): “I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery.” **Adam Clarke** (Methodist): “I am an old man, and an old minister; and I here declare that I never knew them productive of any good in the worship of God; and have had reason to believe that they were productive of much evil. Music, as a science, I esteem and admire: but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the Author of Christianity.”

3) *Introduced into Churches of Christ.* The first well documented case is when L.L. Pinkerton brought the melodeon into the church at Midway, Kentucky in 1859. About 10 years before this, in 1849, The American Christian Missionary Society was formed in Cincinnati, Ohio. Those who

favored the Missionary Society and instrumental music became known as the Christian Church. In 1906, the U.S. Census recognized the Christian Church as a religious body separate and distinct from the churches of Christ.

The Roman Catholic Church borrowed it from the Jews, the Protestant Churches adopted it from the Catholics, despite objections and protests of their founders and leaders to its use, and some churches of Christ have embraced it. The Lord did not command it, and no church in the first century used it. It violates the authority of Christ (Mt. 28:18; Col. 3:17), denies the completeness of New Testament revelation (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3), violates God’s law of faith (Heb. 11:6; 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17), is not taught in the doctrine of Christ (2 Jn. 9), is out of harmony with the nature of the new covenant (Heb. 8:9), and violates the law of worship (Jn. 4:23-24; 17:17). Thus, churches of Christ which hold fast to the New Testament pattern are content to sing and make melody in the heart as the New Testament teaches, and oppose every innovation that does not conform to the pattern, including the use of mechanical instruments in worship.

Going Into The House Of The Lord

by John Isaac Edwards

The Psalmist said, “I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord” (Ps. 122:1). Does this describe you today?

1) **Go.** There are some who stay home or go elsewhere instead of going into the house of the Lord. Forsaking the assembling is wilful sin and must not be tolerated (Heb. 10:25-26). We need to have our priorities in order (Mt. 6:33; 22:37). There is no greater place on earth to go than into the house of the Lord!

2) **Go With Gladness.** Some may come in as if they were weaned on a sour pickle, with their lip stuck out, all mad at the world! In ancient times, some said, “Behold, what a weariness is it!...” (Mal. 1:13). These need an attitude adjustment! How about going with a merry heart and a cheerful countenance (Prov. 15:13)? It’s a great privilege to go into the Lord’s house!

3) **Go With Preparation.** The Scriptures put a lot of emphasis on being prepared (2 Chr. 12:14; 27:6; Ezra 7:10; Lk. 12:47; 2 Tim. 2:21; Heb. 11:7). Some may prepare for other things, but make little to no preparation before going into the Lord’s house! How about: Going to bed at a decent hour so as to get a good night’s rest before you come? Leaving the house on time so as to be early to greet one another and visitors who may be present? Having read, studied and filled out your Bible class lesson? Being ready to take your place on the duty schedule, having practiced ahead of time at least 6 times out loud? Having purposed in your heart to give bountifully unto the Lord (2 Cor. 9:6-7)?

4) **Go With Reverence.** The Psalmist said, “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). The

Hebrew writer penned, “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Heb. 12:28).

5) **Go With The Best.** In Old Testament worship, the Lord expected His people to bring “...the best...” (Num. 18:12). The law said, “But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you....it shall be perfect to be accepted...” (Lev. 22:20-21). The time of Malachi found the Lord’s people offering the blind, the lame and sick. The Lord said, “Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you... neither will I accept an offering at your hand” (Mal. 1:8-10). When it comes to what we offer unto the Lord, it is the best or nothing!

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

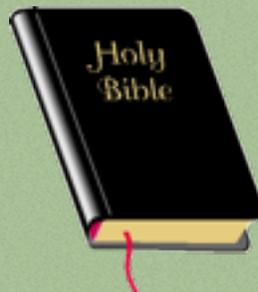
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com