

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

John Isaac Edwards

It does make a difference as to how one worships. *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”* (Jn. 4:24). There are five (5) channels of acceptable worship.

1) **SINGING.** Hebrews 2:12 records, *“in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.”* We also teach and admonish one another in our singing (Col. 3:16).

2) **TEACHING AND PREACHING.** When the early church met for worship, *“Paul preached unto them”* (Acts 20:7).

3) **PRAYING.** While Peter was in prison, *“prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him”* (Acts 12:5).

4) **GIVING.** 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 orders the church to take up a *“collection for the saints”* upon *“the first day of the week”*.

5) **OBSERVING THE LORD’S SUPPER.** Disciples met on the Lord’s day, the first day of the week, to *“break bread”* (Acts 20:7).

Let’s be content to just worship through these channels!

WHY WE SING AND DON’T PLAY

John Isaac Edwards

One of the first things many observe as they visit with us is that we do not use mechanical instruments in worship unto God. We are often asked why we sing and don’t play. Let’s take a look.

1) **MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.** 2 Chronicles 29:25 and Psalm 81:1-4 show that God commanded the use of mechanical instruments in Old Testament worship.

2) **WE LIVE UNDER THE NEW TESTAMENT.** We are not subject to Old Testament law (Gal. 3:23-25; Eph. 2:15), but live under *“the law of Christ”* (Gal. 6:2). Thus, we must appeal to the New Testament.

3) **THE NEW TESTAMENT SAYS TO SING.** There are a total of ten passages in the New Testament that discuss the music to be used in worship, and they all say to sing. See for yourself (Mt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16;

Heb. 2:12; 13:15; Jas. 5:13). Where did the Lord say to play?

Since there is no command, example or necessary inference for mechanical instruments in worship, there is no authority for such practice. To do so is to go beyond the doctrine of Christ (2 Jn. 9).

SOME THINGS FOUND IN CHRIST

John Isaac Edwards

The word of the Lord often talks about *“in Christ.”* To help us see the need to get into Christ, we would like to make you aware of three things found in Christ.

1) **REDEMPTION.** Romans 3:24 teaches, *“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”* If you’re interested in being redeemed, you’ll have to get into Christ for that’s where redemption is.

2) **ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.** Paul wrote, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”* (Eph. 1:3). Do you know how many spiritual blessings are outside of

Christ? Not a one!

3) **SALVATION.** The Bible talks about “*the salvation which is in Christ Jesus*” (2 Tim. 2:10). Since salvation is in Christ, only those in Christ will be saved. All those outside of Christ will be lost. It’s important then that we be in Christ, right? Are you in Christ?

A good question here is, How do we get into Christ? Galatians 3:27 answers, “*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*” If you’ve not been baptized, then you’re not in Christ. Have you been baptized as the Bible teaches?

IF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS STILL BINDING

John Isaac Edwards

Many think we are bound to keep the laws of the Old Testament today. If the old law of Moses is still binding:

1) Why did Paul tell the Romans we are “*dead to the*

law” and “*delivered from the law*” in Romans 7:1-7?

2) Why were the Corinthians told the Old Testament was “*done away in Christ*” in 2 Corinthians 3:6-14?

3) Why did Paul tell the Galatians the law was a “*schoolmaster*” and “*we are no longer under a schoolmaster*” in Galatians 3:23-25?

4) Why were the Ephesians told the law of Moses was “*abolished*” in Ephesians 2:15?

5) Why did Paul tell the Colossians the Old Testament was blotted out, taken out of the way, and nailed to the cross in Colossians 2:14?

Does anybody have any answers to these questions?

CONSEQUENCES OF KEEPING THE LAW OF MOSES

John Isaac Edwards

Many today want to go back and keep parts of the Old

Testament. Here are some consequences of keeping the law of Moses.

1) **MAKES CHRIST UNPROFITABLE.** When there were those who tried to bind fleshly circumcision on New Testament Christians, Paul said, “*that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing*” (Gal. 5:2).

2) **MAKES ONE A DEBTOR.** Paul said, “*For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law*” (Gal. 5:3). If you’re going to keep part of the law, you’ve got to keep the whole shebang! Offered your animal sacrifices? Been to Jerusalem to worship?

3) **CAUSES ONE TO FALL FROM GRACE.** Paul informed the Galatians that if they kept the law of Moses, “*ye are fallen from grace*” (Gal. 5:4). You don’t want to fall from grace, “*For by grace are ye saved*” (Eph. 2:8-9).

We best just keep “*the law of Christ*” (Gal. 6:2).

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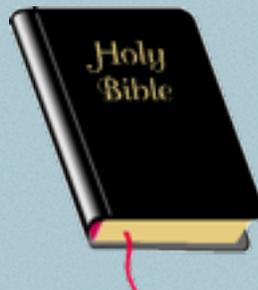
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