

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

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SINGING WITH INSTRUMENTS OR WITHOUT THEM?

John Edwards

In commenting on worshipping at a place where mechanical instruments accompanied singing, F. LaGard Smith remarked, “As for the instruments, I tried to content myself with the thought that while everyone else was singing *with* the instruments, I was singing *without* them!” (*Who Is My Brother?*, p. 103). With this thinking, one could satisfy himself in the practice of everything under the sun. Consider some parallels:

“AS FOR THE KING’S MEAT, I TRIED TO CONTENT MYSELF WITH THE THOUGHT THAT WHILE EVERYONE ELSE WAS EATING WITH DEFILEMENT, I WAS EATING WITHOUT IT.” Would this thinking have worked for Daniel? Could not the young captive have so contented himself in eating at Nebuchadnezzar’s table? Wonder why he requested pulse to eat (Dan. 1:5-16)?

“AS FOR THE KING’S DECREE, I TRIED TO CONTENT MYSELF WITH THE THOUGHT THAT WHILE EVERYONE ELSE WAS BOWING WITH RESPECT TO THE GOLDEN IMAGE, I WAS

BOWING WITHOUT IT.” Do you remember reading where Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego fell down before Nebuchadnezzar’s golden image, with the thought that while everyone else was bowing with idolatry, they were bowing without it? That story is found on one of the blank pages in the Old Testament, just as mechanical instruments in the worship of the church is found on one of the blank pages in the New Testament! Let those who content themselves with such thinking explain why Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had no participation with the idol worshipers, even at the expense of endangering their lives before the king (Dan. 3).

“AS FOR THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM AND OF THE NICOLAITANS, I TRIED TO CONTENT MYSELF WITH THE THOUGHT THAT WHILE OTHERS HELD THOSE DOCTRINES, I DIDN’T.” Take your Bible and read what the Spirit of God said to the church of God in Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-16). We must not create an environment in the local church that harbors false teaching and false teachers. The spirit of the Lord is to “*fight against them with the sword of my mouth*” (Rev. 2:16). With the thought of compromise, we have those who have left contending (Jude 3) for coddling. Brethren, “The fight

is on, arouse, ye soldiers brave and true, Jehovah leads, and victory will assure; Go buckle on the armor God has given you, And in His strength unto the end endure.” In order to keep the church pure in doctrine, our teaching and preaching must give forth a clear, resonant sound that is a continuous cheer to those who love the truth and a persistent pain to the proponents of error.

Two texts in the New Testament mention singing with something. 1 Corinthians 14:15, “*...I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*” Colossians 3:16, “*...singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*” Neither text says anything about singing with mechanical instruments! Do not become a partaker of evil deeds (2 Jn. 11). Hear and heed the admonition of Paul, “*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them*” (Eph. 5:11).

GOSPEL MEETING

April 7-12

**with
Nicolas Edwards**

WHY WE DON'T USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN WORSHIP

Nicolas Edwards

Many in the religious world today use mechanical instruments in worship to God. When you visit the church of Christ at Terre Haute, you will find no mechanical instruments. Why?

MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. It is often argued, by those who use instruments, that instruments were used in the Old Testament. That's right, they were! In 1 Chronicles 25, David separated 288 to "*prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals...*" (vv. 1, 7). These were "*for song in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God*" (v. 6). It will also be noted, as you study First Chronicles, the appeal to "*the pattern*" (1 Chr. 28:11-13). This pattern was divine as it was given by God (1 Chr. 28:19). In the Old Testament, the divine pattern commanded the use of

mechanical instruments! "*And he set the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, and psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the Lord by his prophets*" (2 Chr. 29:25). "*Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob*" (Ps. 81:1-4). God commanded the use of mechanical instruments in Old Testament worship. If we were under the old law today, we would be using them; we would be wrong not to!

WE LIVE UNDER THE NEW TESTAMENT. We are not subject to the Old Testament law (Gal. 3:23-25). It has been fulfilled (Mt. 5:17-18), done away (2 Cor. 3:14), abolished (Eph. 2:15), blotted out and nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14-16), taken away (Heb. 10:9-10). We live under "*the law of Christ*" (Gal. 6:2), the

"*will*" of Christ (Heb. 10:10), which was enforced at His death (Heb. 9:15-16). The divine pattern today is the New Testament! Thus we must make our appeal to it.

THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN. There is not one single command, example, or necessary inference for mechanical instruments in worship in the New Testament. If you find one, let us know! So, doing all things according to the pattern will not allow us to use mechanical instruments in worship! They are nowhere found in the pattern. There are ten passages, however, that discuss music in worship today (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). These all say "*sung*", "*sang*", "*sing*", "*singing*", "*the fruit of our lips*". Where did the Lord say play?

If we used mechanical instruments in worship, we would not be according to the pattern, we would violate Colossians 3:17, and we would go beyond the doctrine of Christ (2 Jn. 9).

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Assembling Times:

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



*We Speak Where the
Bible Speaks.*

*We Are Silent Where the
Bible Is Silent.*

*We Do Bible Things in
Bible Ways.*

Come be with us!

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