

WHY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP MATTERS #1

Clearly today, a cavalier, even flippant approach, to the worship of God is prevalent in society. The church of Christ has not been immune from this spiritual plague, as informed people are aware. At least in the interest of younger people who have never had the opportunity to learn the Bible doctrine of worship because it is discussed less and less from the pulpit and the classroom, “why instrumental music in worship matters” ought to be presented to well balanced, open minded people who wish to learn, retain, and uphold the doctrine of Christ.

The use of instrumental music in worship violates four divine laws.

One, The Law Of Faith. A spirit that is against law dominates the religious landscape. It is known as *antinomianism* meaning “against law.” Lest the reader think reference to this word and the concept behind it represents some deep, esoteric, theological concept unassociated with everyday, ordinary life, please take note of the dictionary definition of the word “antinomian”: “one who holds that under the gospel dispensation of grace, the moral law is of no use or obligation because ‘faith alone’ is necessary to salvation” [*Webster’s Dictionary*, p.49].

Sometimes we have to start with the dictionary before we can get to what the Bible teaches. The law of faith includes both God’s moral and spiritual law. Not only does the law of faith guide the practices of clean, wholesome, godly living morally and overt expressions of worship and service spiritually, but it

even trains the conscience in matters that are optional as discussed in Romans 14:23b where Paul wrote, “*For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*”

The New Testament both makes and sustains the claim to be God’s complete law of faith for people living throughout the world. A sampling of verses from one New Testament letter will demonstrate the high regard in which everyone should hold the Bible. Second Corinthians 2:14, “*...thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*” Second Corinthians 3:6, “*Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*” And, 2 Cor. 4:7, “*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*” But, since people are so difficult to convince because of the prevalence of the spirit of antinomianism by non-religious and religious people alike, please note the following as proof of the point: In the parenthetical statement Paul made to the Corinthians, he said, “*Being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ*” (1 Cor. 9:21). And, in highly complimentary fashion James wrote of the law and its attendant blessings when he said, “*But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed*” (James 1:25).

Now, in view of the fact that the New

Testament is the law of faith for everyone living today, here is how the use of instrumental music in worship matters. It is unauthorized by the law of faith, and, resultantly, it is impossible to sustain its use in worship as being some-

thing that God wants or with which he is pleased. So, does it matter? Absolutely, provided a person or congregation of people has the desire to give God what he wants and what pleases him.

1st of 2 parts

— *Gary McDade*
