

# WHY CHURCHES OF CHRIST DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC #12

## WHERE IN THE BIBLE ARE INSTRUMENTS CONDEMNED?

There is no end to the attempts made to defend and support the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship. But this is the wrong question. They should be asking: “what does the Bible authorize?”

While there is no passage of scripture that specifically says, “*Thou shalt not use mechanical instruments of music in worship;*” the fact is, the Bible doesn’t have too because God specifically states what He wants (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). We are to “speak,” “sing,” “teach” and “admonish” with our heart. The human voice can do all these things but instruments cannot do any of them.

By God specifying what he DOES want, he eliminates having to specify what he DOES NOT want. For example, God instructed Noah to build an ark of gopher wood with one door, one window and three floors (Gen. 6:14-16), but nowhere did God say “thou shalt not use oak or have two doors or two windows or four floors.” It was not up to Noah to use the wood of his choice “in place of” or “along with” gopher wood. He could have made two doors or more windows and floors. But not with a “thus saith the Lord” (cf. Col. 3:17). Had Noah not done what God said, the ark would not have floated the first minute!

Most people would be horrified if the church they attended substituted cake

and coffee in the communion. But why? The answer is, “the Bible tells us what is to be used in the observance of the Lord’s supper: unleavened bread and fruit of the vine.” It is understood, and rightly so, that by showing what was used in the Lord’s supper in the early church, it shows that everything else, any substitution or addition, is not authorized. It is condemned.

God does not have to tell us in his word that you can’t do this or you can’t do that because he has told us what to do, therefore eliminating everything else. Since this principle of understanding the Bible is seen in Noah building the ark and regarding the Lord’s supper, why can’t people see it regarding the kind of music God has specified? Why? When God says “sing,” he does not have to say you can’t play or hum or whistle.

The Bible is not altogether a book of “*thou shalt not*.” This type reasoning would make the Bible so large that it could hardly be read in a lifetime. The Bible is a book of “thou shalt,” a book of instructions so man can know what to do in order to obey God.

Every passage that speaks of music in the church specifies “singing.” None speak of “instruments,” either alone or in accompaniment with singing. Second Timothy 2:15 tells us to “*rightly divide the word of truth.*” This cannot be done when men “add to” and/or “take from” God’s word.

—Garland M. Robinson