

WHY CHURCHES OF CHRIST DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC #6

WHAT ABOUT THE GREEK WORD "PSALLO?"

The Greek word "psallo" is one of the arguments made in support of mechanical instruments of music in worship. The root meaning of *psallo* was to "pluck, touch, rub, pull, or strike." Advocates argue that since this is the root meaning of the word, it authorizes the plucking of instruments of music in worship. BUT, Lexicons agree that its use **IN THE NEW TESTAMENT** means "to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God" (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, p.675). It is, therefore, translated this way the five times it appears in the New Testament: Romans 15:9 "**sing,**" 1 Corinthians 14:15 twice "**sing,**" James 5:13 "**sing psalms,**" Ephesians 5:19 "**making melody.**" Greek scholars have given their verdict! Will you accept it?

The word *psallo* does not authorize the use of man-made music in the worship of the church. The meaning and tense of the word "*yourselves*" in Ephesians 5:19 requires that everyone in the assembly *psallo*. If it is the case that *psallo*, in the New Testament, means to pluck the strings of a musical instrument, then EVERY Christian in the assembly is obligated to play an instrument! No one will accept that.

Even if the argument is granted that the New Testament usage of the word *psallo* means to *pluck* or *strike*, the object that is to be "plucked" is not

found in the word itself, it must be specified by the context. The instrument that is specified in Ephesians 5:19 is the **human heart**. Therefore, every Christian must *psallo*, "sing," "make melody," IN THE HEART, not on a man-made instrument of music.

The apostles were guided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to SING. They were never directed to PLAY instruments. The church, likewise, never employed their use for they were, and are, without authority. This was so commonly known and understood by the early church that they were not introduced until 600 years after the establishment of the church, and even then, they were met with much opposition. It was not until the 13th century that they were gradually and generally accepted. They are of more recent origin than the Bible!

If mechanical instruments of music are authorized by the Greek word *psallo*, why didn't the apostles know it and teach it? And, why didn't the early church use them? Why? WHY?

They are an addition of man centuries after God's ordained establishment of his everlasting kingdom, bought and paid for with the Lord's own blood, his precious church.

Any way you go, man-made instruments are not authorized! You can't get them out of a verse where God did not put them in the verse. Try as you may, they are just not there!

—Garland M. Robinson