

FULTON COUNTY

GOSPEL NEWS

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Instrumental Music In Worship

Clovis Ragsdale

In the last issue, we stated the church of Christ did not use the instrument in its worship because there is no authority given for its use in the New Testament. It was not used by Christians for over six hundred years and when it was introduced it was by the authority of men and not of God. We learned in Gal. 1:8 and other passages that man is not to add to the word of God. Also, that members of the Church of Christ do use music in their homes and in entertainment. Some are very talented in the field of music and make their living in this manner. We believe that Col. 3: 16 and Eph. 5: 19 spells out the will of the Lord in the way he wants us to worship him in the church age.

In this article let us examine some of the reasons given for the use of the instrument in worship. It is said that because the New Testament does not say it cannot be used then it is alright to use it. This argument overlooks the law of exclusion. When God told Noah to build an Ark out of gopher wood did this not exclude oak, walnut, or any other kind of wood? I would hate to think what might have happened to the human race if Noah had said, "God you know that oak would be better," and would have built the ark out of oak. The Lord's supper is to be observed by partaking of the bread and of the fruit of the vine. Does this not rule out meat and milk?

An often used argument is that David used the instrument. It is true that David used the instrument in

worship to God. It is also true that David danced in worship before God. 2 Samuel 6:14. That he offered animal sacrifice and practiced polygamy is also true, but no one would argue that we could please the Lord by doing that today. David lived under the Law of Moses and we know that we no longer live under that form of worship. Col. 2:14-17. Much of the writings of the apostles dealt with the fact that the Law was no longer binding and that even Jewish Christians should no longer keep it. Many things that were a part of the worship under the Law of Moses have been left out of the Christian age. Those things that were included in our worship such as love, abstinence from fornication, lying, and etc. were reauthorized in direct commands given by Christ and the inspired writers. They did not authorize the use of the instrument.

Another reason given is that it is an aid to singing like the tuning fork, songbooks, and pews. The tuning fork, pews, and songbooks have nothing to do with the worship as such. They help to make worship possible. Webster defines worship as "the performance of devotional acts in honor of deity; the act of paying divine honors to a supreme being." A piano located in a church building would be of no importance until it was used as a means of worship. Then it becomes an addition to worship without the authority of God. If we accept the piano then could we not accept dancing, feasting, drinking, and etc. on the grounds that it was a way to worship God? The instrument becomes an actual part of worship. The Bible says we are to make melody in our heart not on an instrument. It states this is to be done by singing, Eph. 5:19. This is done by

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP
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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
CONTINUED

the lips and vocal chords expressing the feelings of the heart joining together to form an act of worship.

We will notice one other reason sometimes given to authorize use of the instrument in worship. It is all right in the home then why not in the church? Many things make up the home life which are not a part of worship in the church. Preparing food, raising children, recreation and scrubbing floors are necessary in home life but God did not include these specific acts in his plan for worshipping Him in the Church assembly. We will conclude this article in the next issue.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

Franklin Church of Christ	\$30.00
Sitka Church of Christ	6.00
Agnos Church of Christ	5.00
Elizabeth Church of Christ	5.00
Sturkie Church of Christ	60.00
Viola Church of Christ	5.00
Robert Risner	10.00

News

Brother Roger Frizzell preaches at Mten on the first Sunday in each month.

Clovis Ragsdale preaches each Sunday and Sunday evening at Mtn. Grove, Missouri. He can be heard on radio station KLRS at one o'clock each Sunday afternoon.

Because of ill health, Brother Cecil Wilson no longer preaches at Welcome Hill. Brother Freeny Saunders now preaches each Sunday and Sunday evening at Welcome Hill. He also teaches a Bible class on Wednesday evenings.

The Church of Christ in Calico Rock, Arkansas is in need of a Minister to work with the church there. If interested contact the Church at Calico Rock, Arkansas.

CORRECTION - In last month's Fulton County Gospel News it was stated that the preachers meetings were the 1st Monday night in each month, this should have read the 2nd Monday night in each month.

THERE ARE MORE WAYS THAN ONE TO SKIN A CAT' but no matter how you do it, the cat won't like it!

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. ---1 Cor. 15:58. (This is the way this passage reads while looking at some members of the church. But there is another clause belonging in this verse and here it is: IN THE WORK of the Lord.)

A man ask his Doctor to help him overcome snoring , and the doctor ask if the snoring disturbed his wife "Disturb my wife?" said the patient, " Why it disturbs the whole congregation!"

The Bible is the most sold and least read of all books. Other books you buy are read through in a few days. Why not read your Bible through.

John Wesley once said, ' if I had three hundred men who feared nothing but God, who hated nothing but sin, and were determined to know nothing among men but Jesus Christ and Him crucified, I would set the world on fire."

CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU ---
Romans 16:16.

*How Many Of
Us Do The Same ?*

How Many of Us do the Same?

How often do we become so occupied with the business of living day to day that we fail to appreciate the beauty of nature, the love of family, the companionship of friends. . . all provided by a bountiful and ever-loving God?

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills;
from whence cometh my help?

My help cometh from the Lord, who made
heaven and earth. Psalm 121: 1,2

RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY

by Glynn Purdy

There must be standards in all things

Whether it is how many inches in a foot, or how many ounces in a pound, there must be a standard to govern. If a person sold cloth by what "looks" like a yard, or sold meat by what "felt" like a pound, then no business could be operated honestly, through the operator "felt" like he was honest!

There must be respect in authority

The greatest country in the world, is now losing respect for authority. Yet, no business, nor government can operate without central authority and respect for and obedience to said authority! The theory is that one obeys only the laws that he "feels" are just, this makes each person a law unto himself and the good of the public is forgotten.

But, is this not what religious people have been doing all the time?

Why are there hundreds of religions, each teaching something different and each saying he is on the way to heaven? Where is the respect for the authority of God? One says, "Sprinkling is baptism", another a "burial", but both say "either is fine". One says one "can fall from grace", another that "he can not", but both say "either is fine". But has one ever considered the authority of God? Each, in religion, has for years done what he wants to do in religion, and left off what he does not want to do, then why be surprised that people accept this in respect to the laws of the land?

What is safe authority in religion?

Our parents? Great religious leaders? The authority of the "Church"? If a man follows his parents just for the sake of following some one, he is no better off than following himself. What if one parent believes one thing and the other something else? Then what? Paul followed his parents' Religion, only to find that He was wrong, Gal. 1 : 14.

Is One's Conscience A Safe Guide?

Paul followed his conscience, only to learn that he was wrong, Acts 23 : 1. Conscience is a creature of teaching. Our Conscience only condemns what we have been "Taught" to be wrong, nothing else. So if one is taught error, he can disobey God with a clear conscience. This is what Paul did! If each should follow his conscience, then there would be as many ways to Heaven as there are people. No the conscience is not a safe guide to what God Commands. It is not conscience that saves, but rather the Gospel!

Myself

I have to live with myself and so---
I have to be "fit" for myself to know
I want to be able as the days go by
To look myself straight in the eye
And blame myself for the things I've done

I don't want to put on a closet shelf
A lot of secrets about myself
And kid myself into thinking
No one else will understand
The kind of man I really am
I don't want to dress myself up to sham.

I want to stand with my head erect
I want to deserve all men's respect
So that whatever happens I'll always be
Self respecting and conscience free.

"The Cross Was His Own"

They borrowed a bed to lay his head
When Christ the Lord came down:
They borrowed the ass in the mountain pass
For him to ride to town;
But the crown that he wore and the cross that he bore
Were his own— the cross was his own.

He borrowed the bread when the crowd he fed
On the grassy mountainside;
He borrowed the dish of broken fish
With which he satisfied;
But the crown which he wore and the cross that he bore
Were his own— the cross was his own;

He borrowed the ship in which to sit
To teach the multitude;
He borrowed a nest in which to rest
He had never a home so rude;
But the crown which he wore and the cross that he bore
Were his own—the cross was his own.

He borrowed a room on his way to the tomb,
The Passover lamb to eat;
They borrowed a cave for him a grave,
They borrowed a winding sheet;
But the crown which he wore and the cross that he bore
Were his own—the cross was his own.

Is There Not A Cause

In reading 1 Samuel 17:26-29, we find the very familiar story of David and the giant Goliath. As we view these verses, we realize that David had a tremendous challenge before him. First of all there was the challenge of Goliath himself that he would take on all comers. The responsibilities that were David's were, first of all, that he had a giant to kill, (verse 4). He was a man that was at least 9 feet 9 inches tall, had a coat of mail that weighed about 200 pounds, had been a man of war from his youth, and a spear like a weaver's beam which would be estimated at about 20 pounds. The freedom of Israel was at stake as we find in (verse 9). Goliath had made the challenge that if he prevails then the Israelites were to become their servants. Even a tie wouldn't benefit Israel. Thirdly, his older brother was against him. Sometimes we realize the impact of older brothers as well as those who are aged in giving us advice. In verse 28, his older brother's anger was kindled against him and had made a very strong indictment against David. Forthly, we find Saul discouraged him. In verse 33, Saul said that he was but a youth and that Goliath had been a soldier from his youth up.

From the few verses around this story, we find that there is risk both in commitment and complacency.

There is a risk of losing our friends and our relatives. A risk of losing our material goods, our job and our money. The risk of being critized and ridiculed when we truly commit ourselves to the Lord. There is also the risk of having to stand alone on many occasions without even any type of encouragement.

There is also a risk in complacency. The risk of not only losing our own soul, but losing the souls of others.

Our real question is summed up with this, Is there not a cause? Our first concern that would prompt this question is this. With 7000 people dying every hour and only 5 of them prepared to meet the Lord, is there not a cause for us to launch out into a greater personnel work program. For every 1 death there are 2 births, and every 12 hours more people are born into

the world than are added to the church in an entire year. We are losing approximately 530 people from the earth for every 1 person baptized. Every second 4 people are born, 2 people die and it takes the entire body of Christ 300 seconds to baptize 1 person. For every 1 faithful member of the church, there are 2024 for him to win. With these odds cannot we ask the question, Is there not a cause?

With the divorce rate today almost 1 in every 4 and

750,000 children yearly affected by broken homes either by death or by divorce, Is there not a cause for strength in our homes? In New York City is was reported in 1958 that 1 in every 15 births was illegitimate. In 1968 it was reported that 1 of every 6 with an increase of 112% Is there not cause for strength in our homes today? Whether it is true or not it is reported that we are losing about one-half of our young people to the world when they leave home. The real truth of the matter is that they are lost long before they leave home, but this is when it actually takes effect. Isn't it true that there is a cause or David asked Is there not a cause today to strengthen our homes.

We could spend a great deal of time in enlarging upon these two areas, but I suggest to you that the challenges before the Church are as great as the challenges were before David when he came face to face with Goliath. There were those who were against him and there are those who are against us today. Our greatest enemy is ourselves. And so we ask, Is there not a cause?

by Hubert Plumlee

HE MISSED IT

W. HARLAND DILBACK

The story is told of a small boy who found a bright copper cent glistening in the grass. He seized it eagerly it was his, and it had cost him nothing.

Thereafter, wherever he went, he walked head downward, eyes glued to the ground, searching for further treasure.

During his lifetime he found 313 pennies, 61 nickels, 22 dimes, 14 quarters, seven half-dollars and one lonely paper dollar—a total of \$16.38.

The money cost him nothing—save that he missed the fiery splendor of 25,550 sunsets; the glory of millions of stars on innumerable nights; the singing of birds in the trees; the smiles of friends he could have had if he had not passed them by. He spent a lifetime missing the handiwork of God.

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