

THE INSTRUCTOR



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP

By far the majority of religionists in this country think that **“it is acceptable to God to play mechanical instruments of music in worship to God.”** Is this idea BY FAITH OR BY OPINION? Is it taught in God’s word? It can NOT be BY FAITH unless it is taught in the New Testament since **“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”** (Romans 10:17). The fact that most people may think it is right does NOT determine its acceptability to God. Please honestly consider these **facts**.

1. Jesus Christ NEVER AUTHORIZED IT in the New Testament!

2. The Holy Spirit HAS NOT REVEALED IT in the New Testament!

3. The Apostles of Jesus Christ NEVER COMMANDED IT in the New Testament!

4. No **inspired** man EVER TAUGHT IT in the New Testament!

5. There is **no inspired record** where early Christians EVER PRACTICED IT!

6. There is **no inspired record** where early Christians EVER SANCTIONED IT!

7. We do NOT play mechanical instruments of music in worship unto God because:

(a) It is NOT **according to truth** as given by Jesus Christ and revealed by

the Holy Spirit. (See John 1:17; John 4:24 and John 17:17).

(b) It is NOT a **good work** according to the Scriptures. The Script-furnish the man of God completely to every good work. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Since it is not in the Scriptures, it is not a good work!

(c) It does NOT **pertain unto life and godliness**. We learn from 2 Peter 1:3 that we have been given all things that pertain unto life and godliness. Since the playing of mechanical instruments of music in worship to God has not been given us in God’s Word, **it does not pertain unto life and godliness!**

(d) It can NOT **be done by faith!** To please God, we must act by faith! (Read Hebrews 11:6 and 2 Cor. 5:7). But we receive faith by hearing God’s Word. (See Romans 10:17). Since God’s Word does not authorize the playing of mechanical instruments of music in worship to God, it can NOT be done by faith!

(e) It can NOT **be done “in the name of,”** i.e., by the authority of Jesus Christ since Jesus Christ has not authorized it. But Paul commands us to do “whatsoever” we do in the name of Jesus Christ. In Col. 3:17 he says: **“And whatsoever ye do in**

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Editorial . . .

DRUNKENNESS AND SOCIAL DRINKING

Christians are concerned about pleasing God. In order for us to please God, we must **"walk by faith."** In writing to Christians Paul said: "...we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us **how ye ought to walk and to please God...**" (1 Thess. 4:1), and **"...we walk by faith, not by sight."** (2 Cor. 5:7). Since **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,"** (Rom. 10:17), we can not **"walk by faith"** unless we hear God's Word.

Many who profess to be Christians claim that it is right for Christians to drink intoxicating liquors as beverages. Some see no sin in drunkenness. Others see sin in drunkenness but claim that it is right to **"drink socially."** Are these ideas **"of faith?"** Can a person be a drunkard **"by faith?"** Can a person drink socially **"by faith?"** These are vital questions and they deserve a Scriptural answer. Please consider the following facts.

1. DRUNKENNESS WAS CONDEMNED UNDER THE OLD TESTAMENT. For example, Isaiah 5:11 said: **"Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until**

night, till wine inflame them!" Solomon said: **"Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty..."** (Prov. 23:20-21), and **"wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."** (Prov. 20:1). See also Lev. 10: 8-9; Deut. 21:18-21; Prov. 4:17; 23:29-35; 21:17; Isaiah 5:22-23; 28:7-8; Hos. 4:11 and Daniel 1:8-16.

2. DRUNKENNESS IS CONDEMNED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT OF JESUS CHRIST. For example, the apostle Paul said: **"Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."** (Romans 13:13). In Gal. 5:19-21 Paul lists "drunkenness" as a work of the flesh and says that those who do such things **"shall not inherit the kingdom of God."** Please read and consider very carefully the following passages: Luke 21:34; 1 Cor. 5:11; 6:9-11 and Eph. 5:18.

3. SOCIAL DRINKING IS SINFUL BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS.

(a) It is condemned under **"banquetings"** in 1 Peter 4:3. THAYER'S LEXICON, page 533, defines it as **"a drinking, carousing: 1 Peter 4:3."** YOUNG'S ANALYTICAL CONCORDANCE, page 70, says **"a drinking."** GREEN'S LEXICON, page 153, defines it as **"a drinking together, drinking bout, comotation, 1 Peter 4:3."** Mr. Trench in SYNONYMS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, page 225, says **"the drinking bout, the banquet, the symposium, not of necessity excessive..., but giving opportunity for excess."** An **"excess of wine" is also condemned in 1 Peter 4:3.**

(b) One can NOT drink and **"make for peace"** nor **"edify"** Christians as Paul taught that we should. In Romans 14:19-21 he said: **"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."** See also Eph. 4:29; Matt. 18:6 and 1 Cor. 8:9-13.

(c) One who drinks is NOT setting the proper example. Christians are taught to

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be "examples" of the believers. Paul urged Timothy to be "**an example of the believers, in word, in conversation (i.e., conduct — CRS), in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.**" (1 Tim. 4:12). He told Titus to exhort the young men to be sober minded, "**in all things showing thyself a pattern of good works.**" (Tit. 2:7-8). Jesus said to his disciples: "**Ye are the light of the world...**" (Matt. 5:16). See also Phil. 2:1.

(d) One can NOT drink "**in the name of,**" i.e., by the authority of Jesus Christ as Col. 3:17 suggests that we must do. It says: "**And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**"

(e) One can NOT drink "**to the glory of God**" as 1 Cor. 10:31 says we must do. It says: "**Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**"

NO, ONE CAN NOT DRINK INTOXICATING LIQUORS "BY FAITH!" Both drunkenness and social drinking are sinful! Drunkenness and social drinking will bring financial burdens, mental and physical diseases, divorces, heartaches, disappointments, sorrows, woes, wounds, pain and deaths in this life, and in the world to come, eternal damnation! NO ONE CAN NOT DRINK INTOXICATING LIQUORS AS A BEVERAGE BY FAITH!

(CRS)

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HONESTY AND FAIRNESS

7. PAUL said: "Providing for HONEST things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of all men." (2 Cor. 8:21)

8. PETER said: "Having your conversation (i.e., manner of life - CRS) HONEST among the Gentiles..." (1 Peter 2:12).

9. JESUS said: "And as ye would that MEN SHOULD DO TO YOU, DO YE ALSO TO THEM LIKEWISE." (Luke 6:31).

YES, Christians should be honest and fair in all their business affairs!

(CRS)

HONESTY AND FAIRNESS

The attitude manifested by a person in business affairs reveal a great deal about a person. The way he acts and treats people in business transactions often show his true feelings. Some business men obviously do believe that gaining every thing by any means is truly "the name of the game." If they can make a dollar by overpricing, or by making a "mistake" in calculation (of course, in their favor) or by lying or by any other means they will do so. After all, they reason, to be "a good business man" one must take advantage of all situations. Is this the attitude of the Christian? Is this what God expects or even allows of His children? Is God even concerned about such "trivials?" Does He really care? Does it really matter with Him?

Let us carefully read and consider what God has to say about such matters.

1. Under the law of Moses God commanded the Israelites to deal **fairly** and **justly**.

A. **Leviticus 19:11** - "Ye shall not steal, neither **DEAL FALSELY**, neither **LIE ONE TO ANOTHER.**"

B. **Leviticus 19:35** - "Ye shall do **NO UNRIGHTEOUSNESS** in judgement, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure."

C. Also see **Deuteronomy 25:13-15**.

2. **SOLOMON** said: "A **JUST** weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are his work." (Prov. 16:11).

3. **SOLOMON** said: "A **FALSE** balance IS **ABOMINATION TO THE LORD**; but a **JUST** weight is his delight." (Prov. 11:1).

4. **SOLOMON** said: "It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth." (Prov. 20:14). **NOTE:** Traders often act as described in that passage. Dishonesty prompts such action.

5. **JESUS** said: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38).

6. **PAUL** said: "Provide things **HONEST** in the sight of all men." (Rom. 12:17).

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word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Therefore it is wrong to play mechanical instruments of music in worship to God.

(f) It is an **addition**. We learn from James 1:25 that we have **"the perfect law of liberty."** James 2:12 tells us that we should speak and do as those who **"shall be judged by the law of liberty."** Paul tells us not to think of men **"above that which is written."** (See 1 Cor. 4:6; also Gal. 3:15). Since the Word of God does not authorize the playing of mechanical instrumental music in worship to God, if we do it, it is an addition and thus sinful!

(g) It is a **transgression of the law of Christ!** 1 John 3:4 says that **"sin is the transgression of the law."**

(1) We are under law to Christ as contained in the New Testament. (See Cor. 9:21).

(2) The law of Christ teaches us TO SING, but it does NOT teach us to play in worship.

(3) Therefore: To play in worship is transgression and hence sinful!

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INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP

(h) It is **unrighteous** because it is NOT AUTHORIZED in the gospel. (See Rom. 1:16-17; Gal. 2:11-14). What is authorized in the Gospel is righteous. When we go outside of the gospel and act we do that which is not right. It is unrighteousness.

(i) It is **vain worship** because it is according to the doctrines of men. The playing of mechanical instruments of music in worship is a doctrine of men. When doctrines of men are followed, worship is in vain. (See Matt. 15:7-9).

(j) Those who play mechanical instruments of music in worship do NOT HAVE GOD because they do NOT abide in the doctrine of Christ.

(k) The word "SING" is the scope of the COMMAND, and therefore it is the LIMIT OF OUR PRACTICE!

NO, IT IS NOT BY FAITH WHEN RELIGIONISTS PLAY MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC IN WORSHIP! They are walking BY OPINION and hence treading on dangerous ground!

(CRS)

WE ARE STILL WAITING TO HEAR FROM EITHER ALBERT HILL OR THE WEST HOBBS STREET ELDERS, but don't hold your breath until we hear.

Sentence Sermons

To err is understandable; to admit it is unlikely.

A wayward child is sometimes straightened out by being bent over.

People determine your character by observing what you stand for, fall for and lie for.

Folks who follow the crowd usually get into a jam.

He who lives for himself does not have much to live for.

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