

## “Clash Of Cultures”

2 Cor. 6:14-7:1

The questions that Paul posed to the Corinthians concerning their response to their culture still need answering in our time.

In view of the promise alliance with the just God—“I will dwell in them” —what a partnership do we want with lawlessness?

In consideration of the promise of divine company—“I will walk among them” —who would dim the brightness of His light by fellowship with darkness?

In the face of a God who came to adopt us as children—“I will be their God” —who would prefer the Belials and false gods who make promises which they cannot keep?

In view of divine election—“they will be My people” —who would elect to be in the company of unbelievers who question and even mock God’s initiatives in redeeming man?

The questions are easily posed and easily answered. In spite of their ease, they are seldom considered and often ignored. Ask them today. Answer them in the choices you make as you interact with our culture. Remember who you are. “Having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

**Jason Moore**

### Notes and reminders:

Let us be praying for our Bible study classes and all efforts to learn more of God’s word.

Also, continue prayers for those on our list, for those in authority, and for the free course of the gospel and obedient hearers.

*“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”  
1 John 5:14*

Editor: Steve Frazier

## Meeting times of the church

Sunday:

9:00 am Bible classes

10:00 am Morning Worship

5:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday: 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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Hebrew 10:23—25 “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some.” But, exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Marietta church of Christ  
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## Glad Tidings

Romans 10:15

April 24, 2022

ARE WE SUPPOSED TO USE  
musical instruments  
IN CHURCH?



This question often comes from honest people, wondering why some of us do not use such mechanical instruments in the worship of the Lord. It is a fair question that demands a fair answer.

All worship of God is limited by whatever divine instructions have been given for our guidance. God has always prescribed what constitutes acceptable worship of Him under every dispensation that He has made with mankind. We must conform our efforts to His will and seek never to impose our own wills upon His. A lesson learned from the very first instance of worship recorded in the Old Testament—that of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4—is that we must act by faith in

God, based on what He has spoken, if our worship is to please Him (Heb. 11:4). The same lesson can be learned from the Mosaic dispensation, in the case of Nadab and Abihu offering strange fire to the Lord in Leviticus 10. Whatever God has not sanctified as acceptable to Him in worship is unauthorized and constitutes will worship.

We also learn from the New Testament that worship can be will worship—worship established by one's own will (self-directed worship). Paul spoke about this in Colossians 2:23. The Lord himself declared that worship based upon the doctrines and commandments of men is offered in vain (Mt. 15:8-9). Because no instruction from God under the New Testament shows the use of any music besides singing to be acceptable in worship, a person adding any other kind of music is doing so on the basis of human desires and pleasure, not the expressed will of God. Will worship fails to meet God's approval, as seen in Colossians 2:23.

New Testament regulations for worship are those that apply to God's people under the new covenant of Jesus Christ (Col. 3:17). Old Testament regulations like those during David's day have no relevance or application to people in the

Lord's church. To use the Old Testament is to burden oneself with the entire Mosaic Law, according to Gal. 5:1-4, including its insistence upon animal sacrifices and the Levitical priesthood. To accept part of the Old Testament practices but refuse others, in the absence of any such direction from the Lord to do so, is to make one's own thinking superior to God's thinking.

In spite of David's use of the instrument or the encouragement to use such, as in Psalms 150, the New Testament instructs the Christian to sing and make melody in his heart to the Lord. The heart of the worshipper is the instrument that is employed in acceptable worship, and its melody is the only melody that the Lord stresses (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

In view of Biblical teaching along the lines discussed in this study, it is important to ask for New Testament teaching that authorizes the use of the mechanical instrument of music in worship to God. Where is that teaching found in the New Testament? If it can be produced, then we should all practice it and stop condemning its use. If it can not be found, then all should omit its use in order to please the Lord, which is the very essence of worship.

**By Bobby Graham**

## **DID YOU KNOW...?**

that the Bible is written in such a way when read we can understand what is being said to us by God? Obviously, some parts of this great book are more difficult to comprehend than other sections. Yet we can grasp the message being taught by a willingness on our part to study. Paul said, "by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)" (Ephesians 3:4). The mystery, of which the apostle spoke, was simply God's will which had been concealed and was now being revealed by holy men of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:5).

In 1 Timothy 4:13-16, this young evangelist was instructed to do several things with the word of God. He was told to read, give attention to doctrine or teaching, meditate, giving himself entirely to them, take heed, and to continue in them. We certainly would do well to heed these instructions given to Timothy.

Jim Mickells

Glean wisdom from failure then bury the memory.