

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 5:15-21**.
- B. One of the most peculiar things about the churches of X is that in their worship assemblies instrumental music is not used. There is good reason for this.
- C. Tonight's lesson will show some scriptural reasons why this practice is so.
- D. Main points:
 - 1. Facts from history.
 - 2. Not adding to the pattern.
 - 3. The nature of Xian worship.
 - 4. The safe course to go.

I. FACTS FROM HISTORY.

- A. Church historians agree that the first century church did not use instrumental music in their worship.
- B. The first use of the instrument in history was about 600AD and it was not used regularly after the 8th century.
- C. See quote from John Calvin, Adam Clark, Martin Luther, Charles H. Spurgeon, and John Wesley.
- D. The word A CAPELLA means "in the manner of the church."

II. ADDING OR NOT ADDING TO THE PATTERN.

- A. The prohibition of adding to God's word is a principle found throughout the Bible (Prov. 30:6 1; Duet. 4:2; Rev. 22:18).
- B. There is a pattern of doctrine to be followed (Rom. 6:17,18; 2Tim. 1:13).
- C. We are not to go beyond what is written (1Cor. 4:6).
- D. We must remember that Moses was told to build the tabernacle according to the pattern (Heb. 8:5), and we today must build the church according to its pattern.
- E. The pattern is realized in both general and specific commands.
 - 1. A general (or generic) command is one where the implementation is left up to man. Examples of general commands; Mk. 16:15; 2Tim 2:2; Gal 6:10.
 - 2. A specific command is one that man must follow regardless. Examples of specific commands; Gen 6:14; 1Cor. 11:24-25; Eph. 5:19.

III. NATURE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP.

- A. The nature of Xian worship is different than that of OT worship.
- B. NT worship is spiritual in nature. No offering of animal sacrifices, burning of incense, or observance of special days (Jn. 4:24).
- C. Look at the difference in singing and playing in the OT and NT (Amos 5:21-24; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). (How can an instrument instruct?)
- D. If we justify instrumental music from the OT, we also can bring back the animal and grain sacrifices, the drink offerings and the burning of incense! This however would be sin (Gal. 5:4).

IV. THE SAFE COURSE TO GO.

- A. One cannot justify the use of instrumental music on the basis of OT worship
- B. Neither can he base it on the mention of harps in Revelation 5:8.
- C. It cannot be justified on the mention that it is an optional expedient.
- D. Some justify it because they say "it helps the singing". I say no; sometimes just the opposite is true.

- E. It is the safe way in which to worship God. No one argues against a capella singing as permissible in the church, but it is those who use instrumental music who have the burden of proof and make themselves divisive in using it.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Why do I believe it is unwise to use instrumental music in the worship services? Because:
 - 1. It involves using an OT practice in NT worship.
 - 2. It means an adding to the Biblical pattern for NT worship.
 - 3. It means the violation of the specific command of Eph. 5:19.
 - 4. It means the introduction of something which will not help, but only hinder people from keeping the command to sing and admonish one another.
- B. Keeping Gods pattern in initial obedience and in faithful living is the way to heaven.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.

Quotes:

- A. **John Calvin.** (Founder of Calvinism).
"It is no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of tapers, or revival of the other shadows of the law. The Roman Catholics borrowed it from the Jews."
- B. **Adam Clarke.** (Greatest of Methodist commentators).
"I am an old man and an old minister, and I here declare that I have never known instrumental music to be productive of any good in the worship of God, and have reason to believe that it has been productive of much evil. Music as a science I esteem and admire, but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music, and I here register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the Author of Christianity." (Clarke, *ibid.*, Vol. IV, p. 684)
- C. **Martin Luther.** (Reformation leader).
"The organ in the worship of God is an ensign of Baal."
- D. **Charles H. Spurgeon.** (A great Baptist scholar, who for 20 years preached to 10,000 each Sunday and never allowed instrumental music to be used in worship during that time). "I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery."
- E. **John Wesley.** (Founder of the Methodist Episcopal church).
"I have no objection to the organ in our chapels provided it is neither heard nor seen."
(*Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible*, Vol. IV, page 684)