

“Music In Worship” (III)

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Text: John 4:24

Theme: To continue the discussion of music in worship.

Introduction:

1. A continuation and completion of last week's lesson.
2. Recapping:
 - a. Such an obvious thing about our worship program.
 - b. Simplicity has always been characteristic of the worship of the Lord's church..
 - 1) The 1st century - biblical
 - 2) Down through the ages.
 - 3) But many have made pompous exercises out of worship services.
 - 4) But we must seek the divine will cf. John 6:38.
 - c. Then we began discussing the two types of music in worship.
 - 1) Vocal -
 - a) Spiritual.
 - b) Reasons for Christians to sing in the worship:
 - 1) Commanded.
 - 2) Glorify God.
 - 3) Express thanks.
 - 4) Teach.
 - 5) Admonish and exhort.
 - 6) Express merriment.
 - c) Christians not singing is indicative of serious problems in life.

- 2) Instrumental -
 - a) The History of it.
 - 1) Old Testament.- II Chronicles 29:25; Psalms
 - 2) New Testament dropped it. - mention leaders again.
 - 3) Later introduced into Christian worship.
 - 1) Boswell says around A.D. 190.
 - 2) Pope Vitalian – A.D. 670.
 - 3) But not until after Charlamagne did instruments become common.
 - 4) Never universally accepted -
 - 1) Primitive Baptists.
 - 2) Mennonites.
 - 3) Greek Catholics.
 - 4) Church of England only accepted by a one vote margin.
 - b) Unlike vocal music because it deals more with entertaining cf. Campbell - “cowbell in a concert.”
 - d. Then we promised very specific reasons for not using them in Christian worship.

Discussion:

- I. Not authorized - no command given
 - A. Was under Old Testament but not now, Ephesians 2:15.
 - B. “But doesn’t say not to.”
 - 1. John 3:1; Leviticus 10:1,2
 - 2. The ark – Genesis 6:14 – gopher wood (no other type wood allowable).
 - 3. God has commanded vocal music (no other type music allowable).
 - C. Man does not have the authority to add to or take away from the Bible, or substitute.
 - 1. Revelation 22:18,19.
 - 2. cf. Lord’s Supper - Galatians 1:8,9

- D. They are sinful – II John 9; I John 3:4.
 - 1. Syllogism #1 (Wallace, *Bulwarks of the Faith*, p.520)
 - a. To use things not authorized in the worship is going beyond the teaching of Christ.
 - b. Instrumental music is not authorized by Jesus Christ.
 - c. Therefore, instrumental music in the worship is going beyond the teaching of Christ.
 - 2. Syllogism #2
 - a. To go beyond the teaching of Christ is transgression.
 - b. Instrumental music in worship is going beyond the teaching of Christ.
 - c. Therefore, instrumental music in worship is transgression.
 - 3. Syllogism #3
 - a. Transgression of the law of Christ is sin.
 - b. Instrumental music in worship is transgression of the law of Christ.
 - c. Therefore, instrumental music in worship is sin.
- II. They do not accomplish what God intends to be accomplished in music in worship.
 - A. Colossians 3:16.
 - B. The voice can do these things, but not the instrument..
 - C. [opt. Ephesians 5:19 Amplified Bible]
- III. They are divisive.
 - A. Them -
 - 1. Pope Vitalian – A.D. 670.
 - 2. Rejected, church divided.
 - 3. Taken out, reintroduced later circa A.D. 800

- B. Us (cf. 1849 American Christian Missionary Society)
1. Midway, Kentucky, A.D. 1959 – instruments brought in among the brethren.
 2. This pretty much began separating the Restoration group into churches of Christ and Christian churches.
 3. Boston is using them today.

Conclusion:

1. The whole question of music in worship boils down to a respect for the word of God and recognition of the authority of Christ.
2. How much liberty do we have in altering God's decrees? □cf. Leviticus 10:1,2.
3. John 4:24.
 - a. The right object – God.
 - b. The right motive - In spirit.
 - c. The right way - In truth.
4. Why not ask - “What's wrong with doing it God's way?”

Invitation:

What is wrong with becoming a Christian God's way?

Bibliography

Tract – *Walking By Faith – Origin of Instrumental Music* – M.C. Kurfes
Bulwarks of the Faith – Foy E. Wallace, Jr.
The Gospel For Today – Foy E. Wallace, Jr.
The Word of Life – J. Franklin Camp, Nov. '78

Boswell-Hardeman Discussion on Instrumental Music