

“The Music of the Church”

Eph. 5:17-21

Introduction

- I. There is a misunderstanding about the church of Christ and music.
- II. Some mistakenly believe that we are against “music” in the church.
 - A. The church must have “music” in worship to God, but the question is what kind of “music?”
 - B. Sadly, many automatically associate “music” with the playing of mechanical instruments, but that is not the only kind of “music”.
- III. Let us look to the Scriptures to determine the kind of “music” is authorized in worship by the New Testament.

Discussion

- I. The New Testament, the Law of Christ, is our source of authority (Col. 3:17; Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 1:18).
 - A. We cannot go to other sources, such as the Old Testament, to find what is acceptable to Christ today.
 - B. Our responsibility is to obey without adding to, or removing from, the New Testament (Rev. 22:18-19; cf. Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6).
 - C. There are specific verses in the New Testament, which identify the type of “music” that God wants in worship in today (Eph. 5:17-21; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 14:15).
- II. What about the mentioning of “harps” in the book of Revelation (Rev. 5:8; 14:2; 15:2)?
 - A. First of all, each of those references are in regard to activity in Heaven, not on Earth.
 1. Heaven is a spiritual realm, not a physical realm.
 2. There will be no earthly, physical things in Heaven.
 - B. Second, the book of Revelation is filled with things that are “signified” (Rev. 1:1).
- III. Does the word “*psallo*” in the Greek, authorize the playing of mechanical instruments in worship to God?
 - A. It is true to Christians are to “make melody/*psallo*” (Eph. 5:19).
 - B. Since that is the case, some automatically associate that word with plucking, or stringing, a mechanical instrument.
 - C. The Biblical text shows us what is to be “plucked,” and it is not a mechanical musical instrument, but rather the heart (Eph. 5:19).
 - D. For approximately 600 years, the church understood what needed to be “plucked,” so one can tell someone changed from what the early church did.

Conclusion

- I. The church of Christ has “music” in worship to God.
- II. That “music” is what is authorized by Jesus Christ, which is singing.
- III. It might surprise some, but Thomas Aquinas, John Calvin, John Wesley, Martin Luther, and Charles Spurgeon all rejected mechanical instruments in attempts to worship God under the New Testament.