

The Oologah Informer

January 8th, 2017

Worship
The Avenue of Song
Part 2 of 2
by Robin W. Haley

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Fundamentals of the Faith; part 14
Preaching in Worship (**2 Tim 4:1-5**)

PM Sermon

Whoever Hates His Brother

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Daniel – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

John 19 – R. Earl

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love on Channel 47

Sundays @ 8am

Oologah Podcast Network

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Some would allege that INSTRUMENTS ARE AIDS. An aid is an expedient. An expedient helps one to obey a command. Where there is no command, there are no expedients, only opinions. Opinions do not authorize. Mechanical instruments do not help us to sing. They may "aid" us in staying in pitch or on key while we sing, but they do not help us to sing. God did not command us to "stay on key" but to sing.

SILENCE is sometimes offered as justification for adding to God's Word. Though we do not have space just here to fully deal with this, please consider that silence does two things: it prohibits when dealing with the "what" of a command, and it permits when dealing with the "how" of a command. Mechanical instruments fail in the first place because they represent another "what" i.e., "playing" which God did not authorize. God was not silent when telling us "what" to do. He said "sing" not "play." They fail in the second place because they are not "singing" but making musical tones. They make their sounds, we make ours while singing. Thus, two different actions, one of which God did not authorize.

Some say we may add mechanical instruments since Romans 14 allows OPTIONS AND/OR OPINIONS. Those in favor of adding to God's Word allege that the "weaker brother" of this text is one who opposes the instrument. A close perusal of that chapter reveals at least these three points:

The subject is not worship.

The subject deals with things correct if done or not, i.e., things not of the kingdom.

The subject deals with private practice regulated by one's own conscience.

But,

Worship is an activity which has guidelines and specifics from God.

Worship IS a matter of the kingdom.

Worship is regulated by God, not man.

Mechanical instruments miss the mark in the following areas:

They are not commanded.

They are not a part of what is done by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17).

They are not used "in the name of" or by the authority of Christ (Colossians 3:17).

They do not fit into the body of truth, the New Testament (2 John 9).

They are not a part of what Jesus commanded the apostles, nor what He told them to teach all nations (Matthew 28:18; Acts 2:42).

They were never used by the first century church.

Readers, please beware of going beyond what God has authorized by His Word. Let us as His worshippers be satisfied with "offering unto God continually a sacrifice of praise, that is "THE FRUIT OF LIPS" (Hebrews 13:15). In this, we will be mutually edified, instructed, admonished, and taught as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. God will be glorified in this our worship through the avenue of song. God bless you in the study of His Word.