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On iTunes, search “oologah church of Christ” in the podcast section

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:

Retribution on the Faithful
(**Lev 26:18-21**)

PM Sermon

Reasons Why... (Eph 1:20-23)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Outline of the Bible - Praschnik

Wednesday Bible Class:

Proverbs 12:4 & following – R. Earl

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love

on Channel 19 Sundays @ 8am

The Gospel of Christ TV Program

on Saturday @ 7:30am on Channel 53

Media & Podcast network

Visit www.biblewaymedia.org for more info.

The Oologah church of Christ only uses the **KJV, NKJV or ASV** translation of the Bible in classes & sermons.

The Oologah Informer Jan 21st , 2018

Thoughts from the Preacher

“God Determines”

God determines what makes a man, no one else.

Weekly Article

Where I Stand #3

By Russ Earl

People have debated the topic of mechanical instruments for many, many years. Our topic today is can a Christian use mechanical instruments in worship and, be pleasing to God while doing so?

It is key to keep in mind that anyone who wants to be pleasing to God must follow the standard of authority that God has revealed in the New Testament. Before considering any topic the individual must decide how important it is to them to be pleasing to God. If mankind has no desire or concern about pleasing God than the discussion of Bible topics will accomplish nothing. With this in mind let us have the mind that we want to please God and not ourselves or anyone else.

Let's begin by pointing out that the Old Testament is not authoritative today. What was done in the Old Testament time period does not mean that action is approved of or commanded today. The Christian should remember that Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:16 that the old law was taken out of the way when Christ died on the cross, “having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace.”. That being said David's use of the instruments in the Old Testament has no impact on what we do in worship under the New Testament law today.

When a man offers worship to God, it must be done according to His commandments. Failure to do so makes worship vain or worthless before God (Mt 15:9). Though a man may do things that may seem that God would be pleased with, according to men, man's standard is not God's standard (Mt 15:8).

As we look at the New Testament, we find no evidence of mechanical instruments being used in worship to God. From Matthew through Revelation, there is no evidence of mechanical instruments in worship. We find no command, no example and no reference that would indicate the use of such things in New Testament Worship. Some may point to Revelation and the references to harps. It is important to remember that the book of Revelation is one of the most figurative books in the Bible. With that in mind, when we see the use of physical objects in a spiritual place this only points to figurative language and not literal harps. One would do well to remember that the incense was figurative of prayers in Revelation 8:3 and that it is only logical that the mention of harps is figurative of praise being offered to God.

In Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 we are reminded that the praise offered to God today comes from our hearts. The literal idea is plucking the strings of ones own heart in praise to God. It is important to point out that the only instrument mentioned is the heart and that any mechanical instrument is not justified by these verses as none are mentioned. We would do well to remember that in the Old Testament the mechanical instruments are mentioned by name each time they are used. The same is done today in Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16. The instrument is the heart.

Since there is no support for the use of mechanical instruments in New Testament worship today. It would be logical to conclude that the use of them today would be sinful. We would do well to remember the price of sin that was paid by Nadab and Abihu when they offered profane fire before the Lord (Lev 10:1-2). Let us always be willing to do what is pleasing to God and not to man.