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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:

Gospel Meeting: Joshua Ortiz

PM Sermon

Gospel Meeting: Joshua Ortiz

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Gospel Meeting: Joshua Ortiz

Wednesday Bible Class:

Gospel Meeting: Joshua Ortiz

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

Prepared for the Lord's Day

Podcast on BibleWayMedia

[Media & Podcast network](https://www.biblewaymedia.org)

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 September 9th, 2018

Thoughts from the Preacher

“No Bible, No God”

When the Bible is no longer your guide,
The God of the Bible is no longer your God.

Weekly Article

God Said “Sing” (Edited)

By Warren E. Berkley

Are we going to learn, follow, and spread the message of God to a world whose head is sick and whose heart is faint? The only solution is Christ, and the only ones who shall proclaim Christ are those of us who say we believe He is the Son of God.

When people visit our assembly and express their curiosity about our vocal music, I reply with this simple expression of our conviction: God said “sing.” I make it clear that the absence of the man-made instruments is not a matter of economics (cannot afford one) or preference (we just like to sing). It goes much deeper than any “church of Christ” or “restoration” heritage or tradition. It has to do with faith and our desire to follow God’s instructions. God said “sing.”

When a man offers a gift to his wife, the considerate thing to do is to offer a gift that will please her. She is the recipient of the gift. I may want a new rifle, a new computer, or a truck. But, if I am going to give something to her that she will appreciate, I will select something I believe will please her and not me. I will take into consideration all I know of her, in particular, what she has said she likes and wants. My gift will be based on her will not mine.

As God’s people, we want to offer worship to Him in response to His greatness and grace to us. In offering that worship, what is important? What I want or what He wants? You will agree, the most important thing is what God wants. The right course to take is to offer what worship to God that I know will please Him.

How can I find out what pleases Him. I can consult His Word! I do not need to even consider human preferences, denominational practices, historical precedence, or majority desire. I do not need to bother myself with a “market study” or poll of human opinion. If I want to know what pleases God, I can read what He has said about worship, determined to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24; 2 John 9).

This quest takes me to the New Testament. I want to know what the apostles of Christ did, since these were the men through whom the will of God was conveyed (1 Corinthians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12). The apostles—in their practice and instruction—endorsed only one kind of music in worship to God, vocal. If any instrument is involved at all it is only in the figurative sense, the heart (Ephesians 5:19).

Paul and Silas, “... at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God...” (Acts 16:25). To the church at Corinth Paul said, “...I will sing with the understanding also” (1 Corinthians 14:15). He

instructed the saints at Ephesus: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19). In another place he wrote: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:16). "...Is any merry? let him sing psalms" (James 5:13). (See also Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; Romans 15:9; Hebrews 2:12).

This clear and simple evidence demands the kind of admission you will read in the Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia (p. 1163): "There is no record in the N.T. if the use of instruments in the musical worship of the church." Or in A History Of The Christian Church (p. 112): "Singing formed an essential part of the Christian worship, but it was in unison and without musical accompaniment" (Lars P. Qualben). Other early historians and writers agree: "Simply singing is not agreeable to children (Jews), but singing with lifeless instruments and with dancing and clapping is. On this account the use of this kind of instruments and of others agreeable to children is removed from the songs of the churches, and there is left remaining simply singing" (Justin Martyr, 139 A.D.). Augustine describes the singing at Alexandria in 354 A.D. by saying, "...musical instruments were not used. The pipe, tabret, and harp here associate so intimately with the sensual heathen cults...it is easy to understand the prejudices against their use in worship."

Strange isn't it? All the years of controversy; all the debates, disputes, and division. Then you open your Bible and focus on what God said. There it is: God said "sing." Don't you think this is what He wants us to do?

Why did Noah use gopher wood in building the ark? God said "gopher wood." Why did Abraham leave his homeland and venture into Canaan? God said "go." Why did Joshua instruct the Israelites to march around Jericho? Because God said to do that. Why did the apostles wait in Jerusalem after Jesus ascended into heaven? That is what Jesus told them to do. Why do Christians today partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week? God has communicated His will regarding this memorial in the New Testament.

So, why do we sing? God said "sing." This is serious because, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9).