

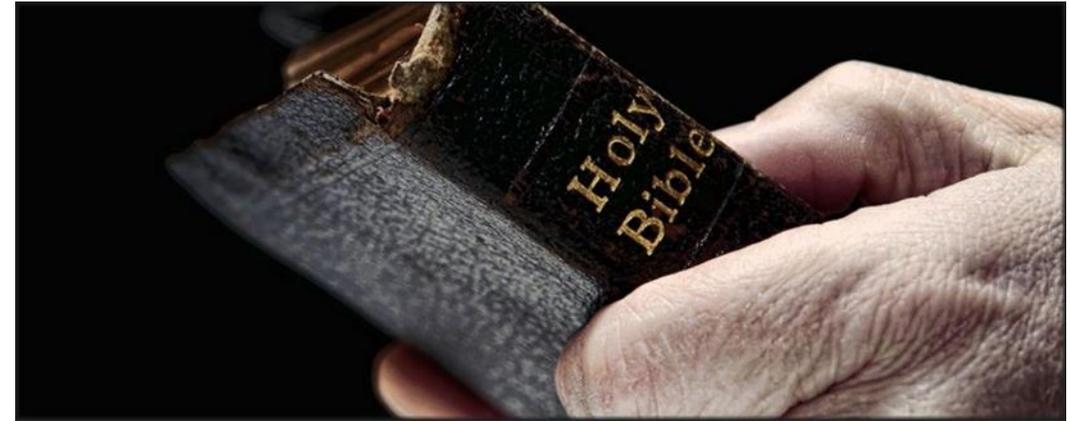
# Scripture Reading

Matt. 13:10-17

10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

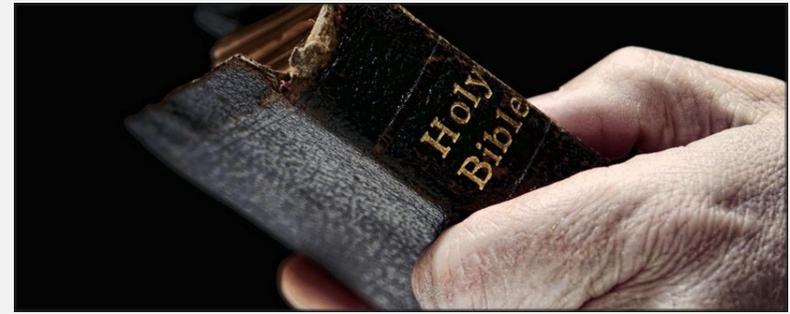
# Does it Really Matter

## Truth?



- **Joh 4:24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **must** worship him in **spirit and in truth**.
- **Joh 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**.
- **1Ti 3:15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth**.
- **Joh 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the **truth shall make you free**.

# Does it Really Matter



## We should seek the truth & not our evidence

We seek the truth in terms of our own will

**Jas 1:14** But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

We look for evidence that supports our interpretation

**2Pe 1:20** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

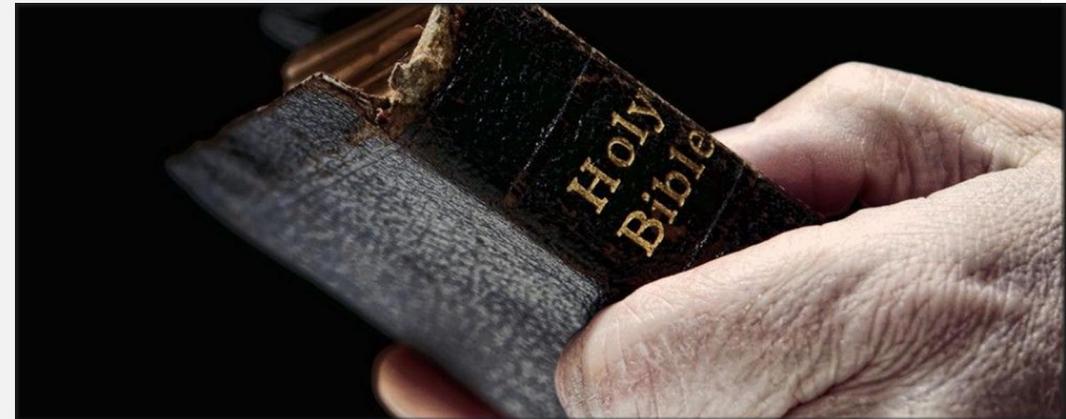
God expects us to discern the real truth

**Ac 10:34** Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

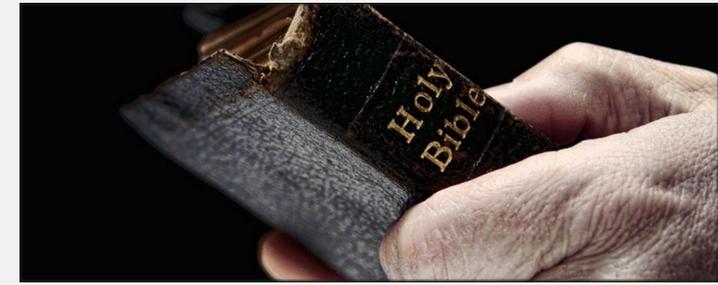
# What is important and what is not?

- Is water baptism necessary?
- Is it wrong to drink alcohol?
- What is God's law concerning divorce and remarriage?
- Can we sing with instrumental music?
- Can we have a kitchen or fellowship hall?
- Do we need to partake of the Lord's Supper every week?
- Can a woman lead a prayer, singing, or preach?
- Does it matter how the church spends the Lord's money?
- Is missionary societies okay?
- Can the church support schools, colleges, hospitals, missionary societies, orphan homes

**2 Pet. 1:3 His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.**



# Does it Really Matter



## Satan will deceive us to believe a lie

**1Jo 1:6** If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

**Eph 4:14** That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

**Ro 1:25** Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

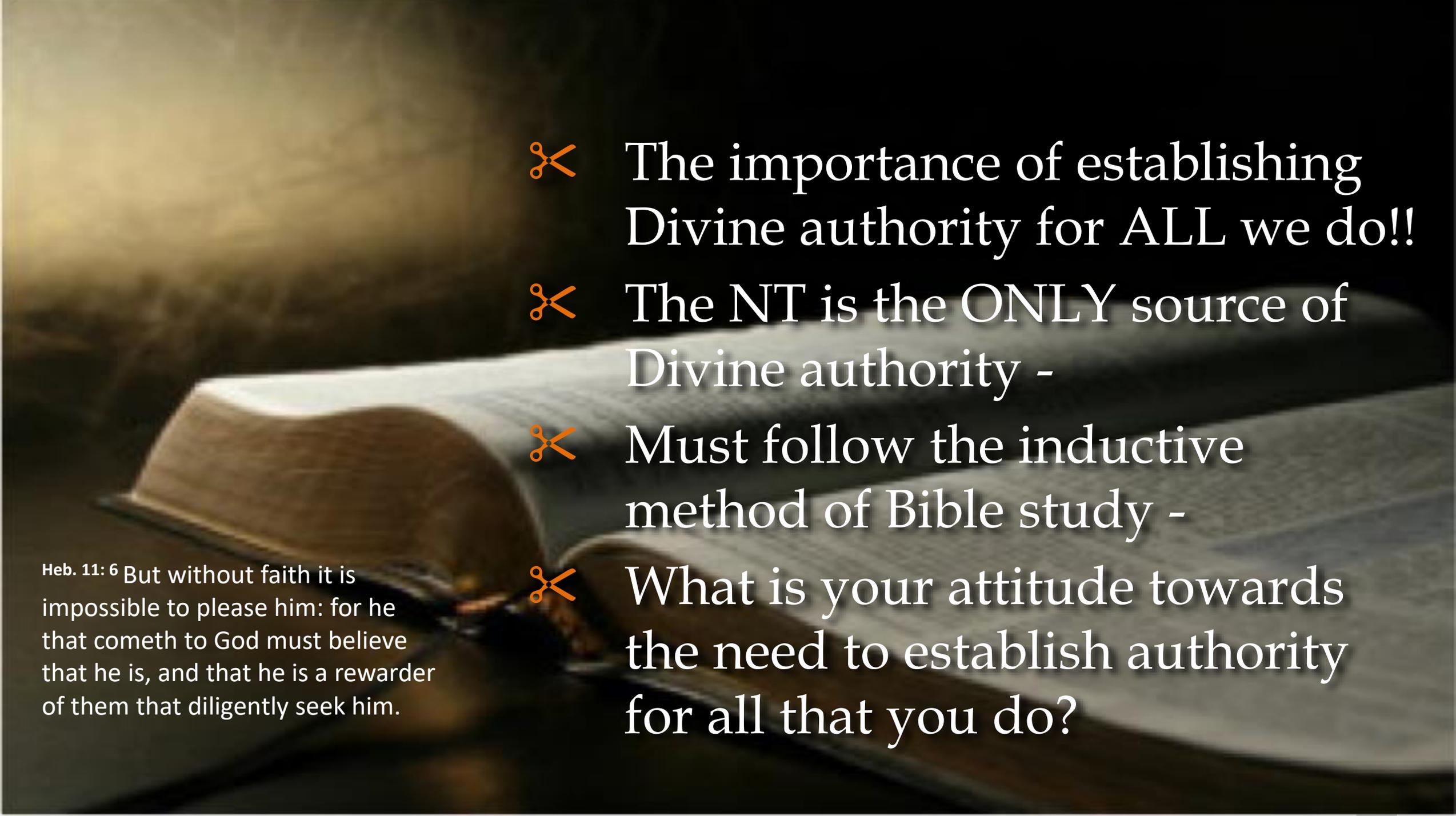
# Does it Really Matter



## We need to seek the truth and believe ourselves



- **Ro 14:11** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. **12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- **Mt 12:36** But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.
- **Ga 6:5** For every man shall bear his own burden.



Heb. 11: 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- ✂ The importance of establishing Divine authority for ALL we do!!
- ✂ The NT is the ONLY source of Divine authority -
- ✂ Must follow the inductive method of Bible study -
- ✂ What is your attitude towards the need to establish authority for all that you do?

## 1 Corinthians 2:7–16 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, <sup>8</sup> which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

# 1 Corinthians 2:7–16 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. <sup>11</sup> For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

# 1 Corinthians 2:7–16 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. <sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. <sup>16</sup> For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

**Obvious conclusion when you look at all the facts**



# Instruments or No Instruments in Church Worship

## Instruments



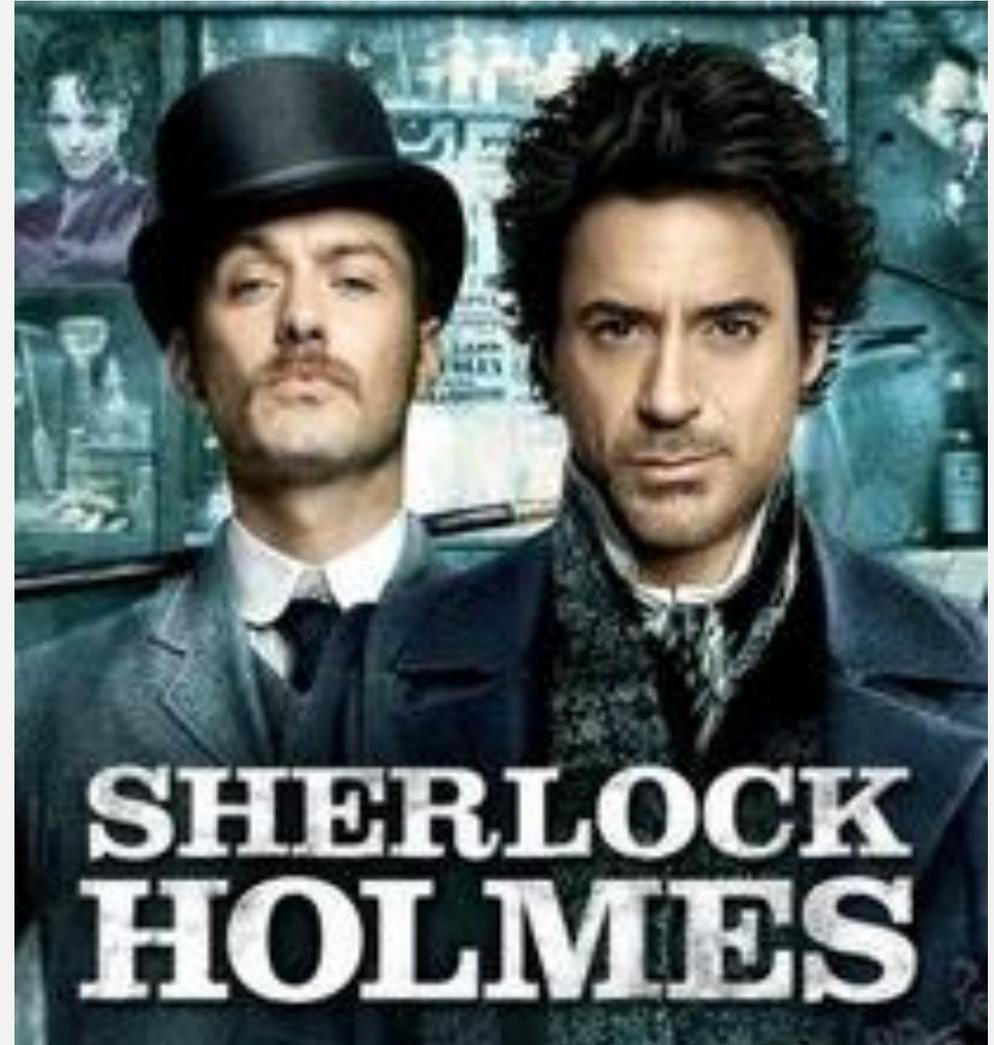
## Acapella



# God wants us to be detectives

## God sometimes hides the truth

- God doesn't always reveal the truth directly
- He gives us all the evidence, but he desires us to seek it out (John 8:32: Matt. 7:7)
- Parables – the truth contained in a parable had to be induced.
- Peter – when he baptized Cornelius and his household had to perceive from the facts that God accepted both Jew and Gentile in the new covenant (Acts 10:34)
- Jesus said why call ye me Lord Lord and do not the things that I say (Luke 6:46)



# Evidence – Instrumental Music

## Arguments

1. Instruments were part of the old testament worship
2. God doesn't directly forbid it
3. It helps or aids the singing like a song book or a pitch pipe
4. Instruments will be in heaven
5. God would not have given individuals talents if He didn't want them to use it
6. If it is okay to do at home, it has to be okay at church
7. Psalms infer use mechanical instrument



# Evidence – Singing Only

## Arguments

1. Old Testament points to God only wanting singing in the new covenant
2. If God wanted instruments, He would have commanded them like He did in the old testament
3. NT examples and commands specify singing
4. Apostles were inspired by the Holy Spirit and the early church did not have instruments
5. Founders of prominent denominations who have instrumental music said it was wrong



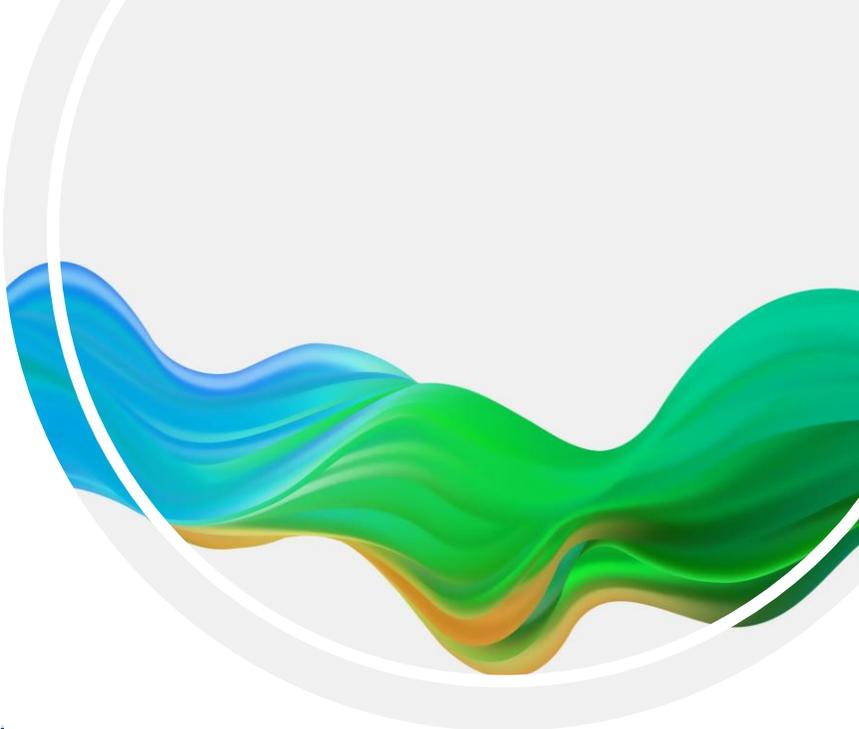
# Music in the Old Testament



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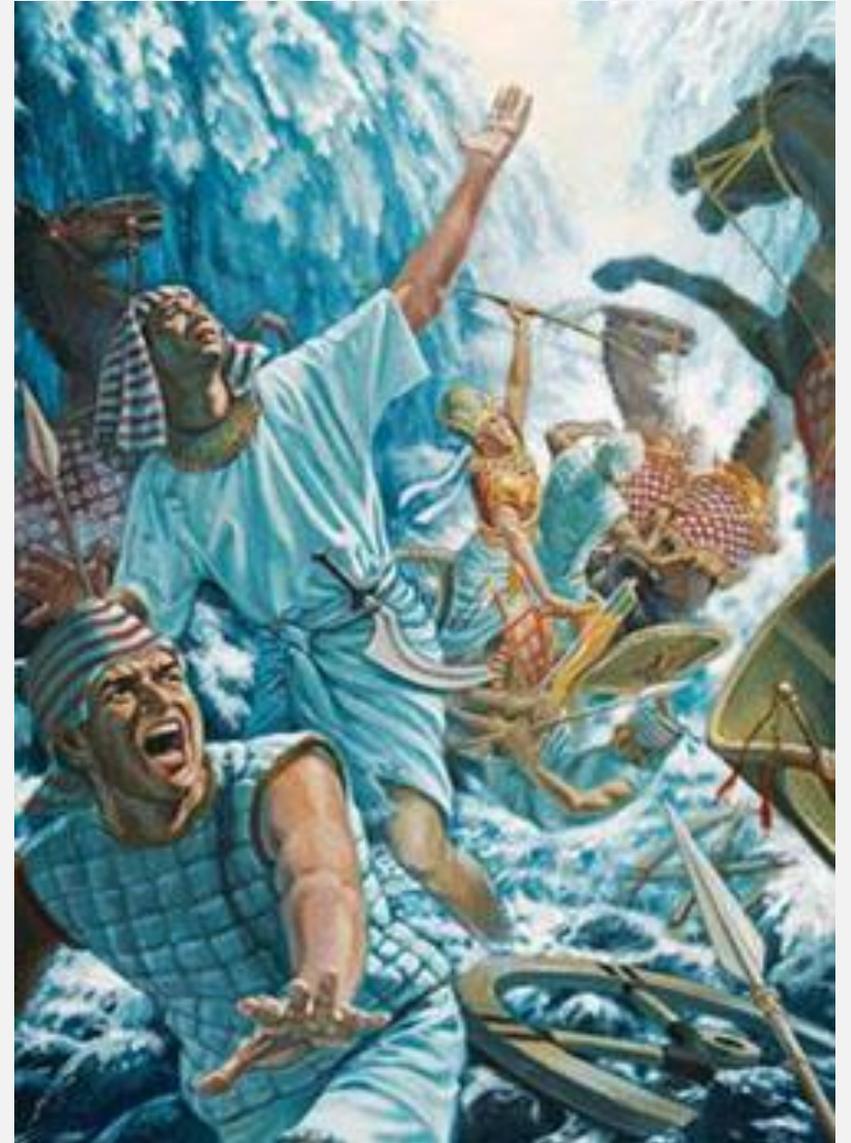


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# Music in the Pre-Law Period

- Not a lot said about it
  - First mention of music is Jubal in Gen 4:21
  - In Genesis 31:27 when Laban rebukes Jacob
- Some religious examples...
  - Moses and Israel after Egyptians were drowned (Ex 15:1)
  - In the same instance Miriam led music and dancing (vs 20-21)
- Examples from the book of Job
  - Wrote of the wicked singing and playing (21:12)
  - His benevolence caused the widow to sing (29:13)
  - Soothed his own sorrow with music (Job 30:31)



# Music in the Old Law

## Music Commanded

- Much more is spoken of music in the Old Law
  - Religious, non-religious, and even idolatrous songs are sung
  - Numbers 10:2-9; Numbers 29:1-6; Exodus 32:18

**Exo 32:18-19** But he said, "It is not the sound of the cry of triumph, Nor is it the sound of the cry of defeat; But the sound of singing I hear." (19) And it came about, as soon as Moses came near the camp, that he saw the calf and *the* dancing; and Moses' anger burned, and he threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain.



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  - This was over 400 years after the “Law” was instituted (1 Ch. 15:16...28)

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# Music in the Old Law

2Ch 29:25 He then stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with harps, and with lyres, according to the command of David and of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for the command was from the LORD through His prophets.

No one had the right to introduce musical instruments into the worship without God's approval.

The same is true today. Remember also that they **ALL** came from the Levite tribe so if we are going to follow their example...



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- So how were instruments used in worship?
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**Playing started when the sacrifice started and it ended when the sacrifice ended!**



# Music in the Old Law (cont)

- The thank offering followed (30)
  - Only singing, no “playing”
  - Jesus brought about a “new” worship (John 4:20-24)



# Music in the Old Law (cont)

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- What were burnt offerings?
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  - Jesus’ death put an end to the sacrificial system
  - Which also put to an end musical instruments since musical instruments were inseparably tied to the sacrificial system!



# Music in the Old Law (cont)



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- What were burnt offerings?
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  - Jesus’ death put an end to the sacrificial system
  - Which also put to an end musical instruments since musical instruments were inseparably tied to the sacrificial system!
- It was all to be performed in the Temple
  - Once the Temple was gone, so was everything else!
  - Hosea brings Hope in his days (Hosea 6:6)

# Music in the New Law

- Once the sacrificial system ended, what were we left with? (2 Chron 29:30)
  - In the New Law, God calls it “the fruit of our lips” (Heb 13:10-16)
  - Try as you may, you CANNOT offer the “fruit of your lips” with a musical instrument!

**“let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name“**

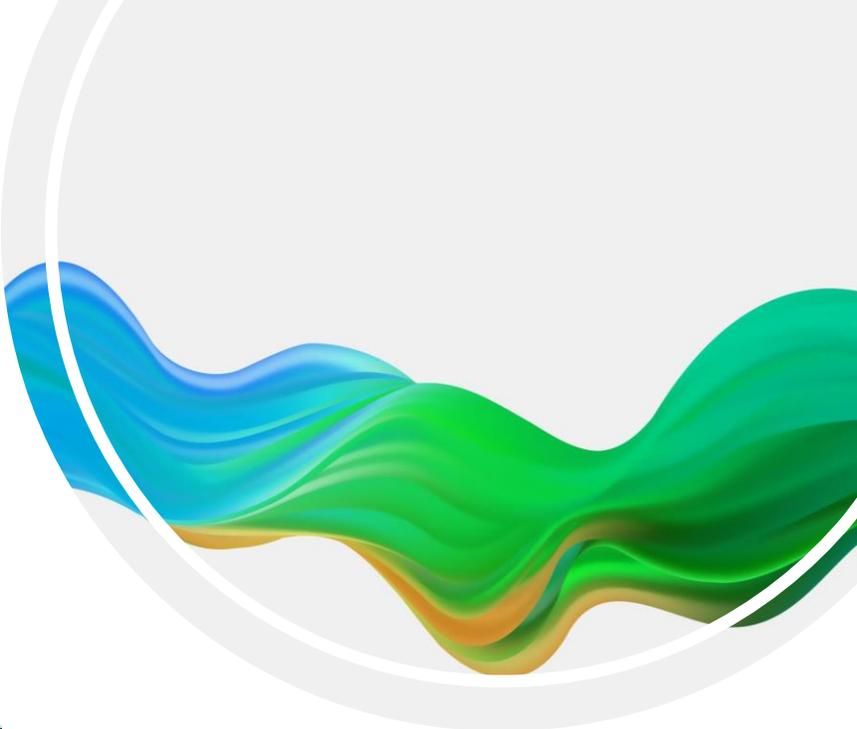
# Bible Doesn't Specifically Forbid It



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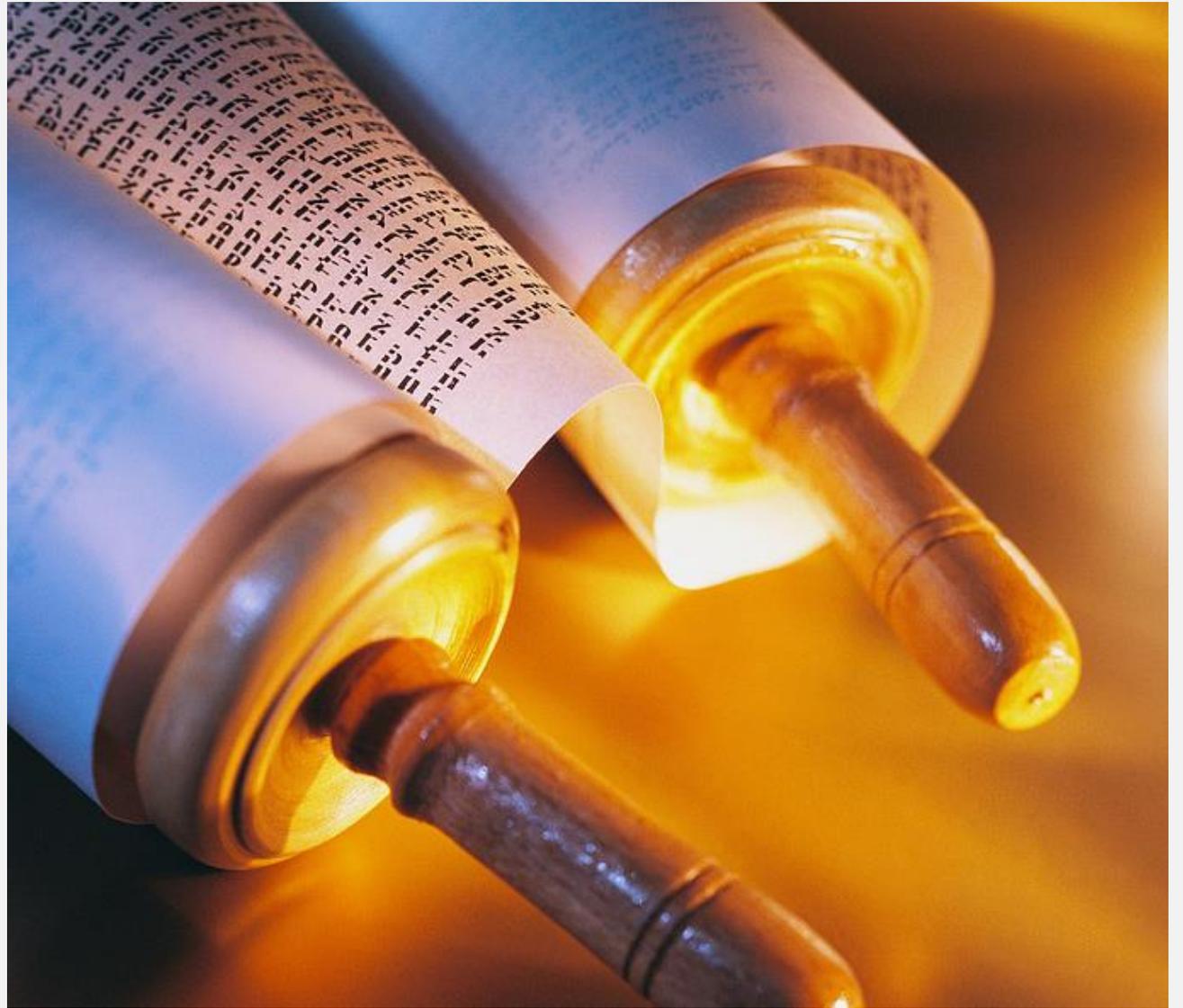
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# Silence of the Scriptures

## Psalm 19:13

*“Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression”*



# Silence of the Scriptures

## Colossians 3:17

*“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

All that we do in worship

- is to be done by the authority of Christ? ✓
- is to be done to entertain everyone?
- is to be done according to our choice?

# Silence of the Scriptures

## What do we learn from these verses

- *singing* is acceptable
- the New Testament is *silent* about playing instruments in worship
  - **WARNING:** “Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD” (Lev. 10:1, 2)



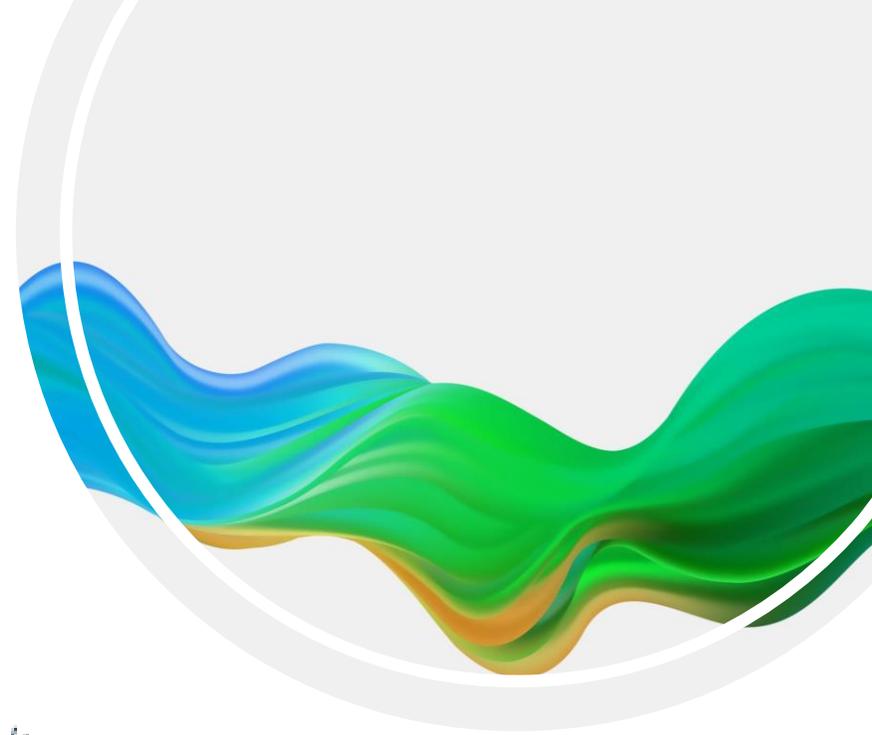
# It is an Aid for Singing



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# Instruments are an Aid

- Mechanical instruments are an aid like song books and a pitch pipe
  - pitch pipe is to pitch the note; book to read the words, notes, etc.
    - still just singing
  - piano, flute, guitar, drums, etc. are designed to “*play*” music, not “*sing*” music
  - you don’t play music on a song book or a pitch pipe. . .you sing to the words!

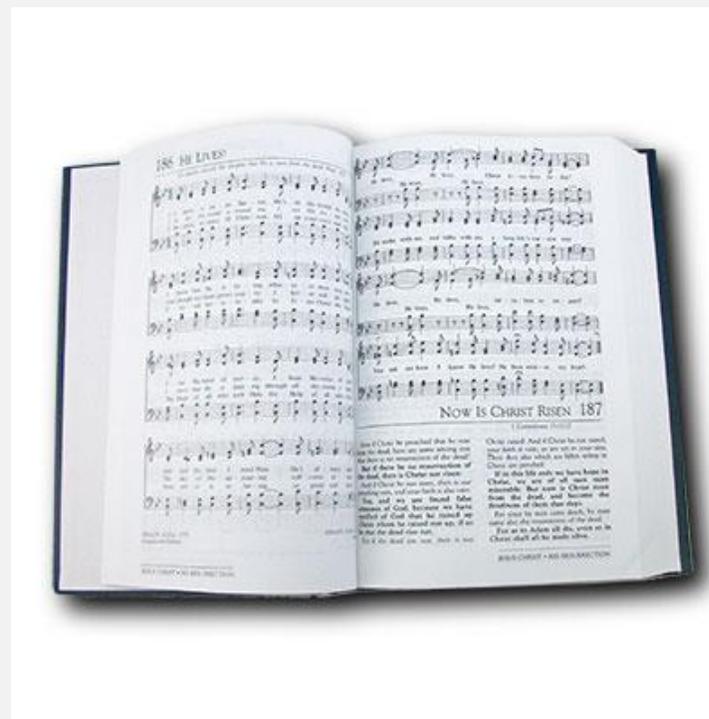
# AID VERSUS AN ADDITION

<b>Authorized</b>	<b>Aid</b>	<b>Addition</b>
<b>Ark</b>	ax, saw, ladders, measuring tape	<b>AIRPLANE</b> <i>Another Vessel</i>
<b>Baptism</b>	pool, baptistery, pond, river	<b>SPRINKLE</b> <i>Another Action</i>
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	trays, cups, plates, servers	vegetable <i>Another Food</i>
<b>Give</b>	basket	<b>SELL</b> <i>Another Action</i>
<b>Sing</b>	pitch pipe, books, leader	<b>PLAY</b> <i>Another Action</i>

# If it is an Aid then for conscience why not give it up

1 Corinthians 8:13

“Wherefore, if meat  
make my brother to  
offend, I will eat no flesh  
while the world standeth,  
lest I make my brother to  
offend.”



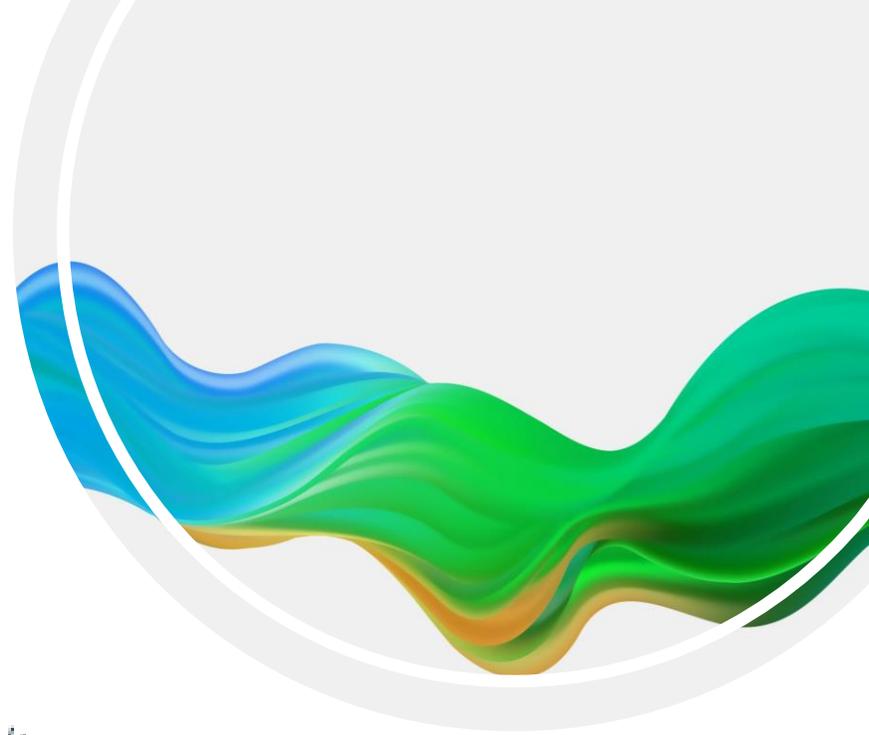
# Instruments in Heaven makes it okay in Church Worship



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# Heaven-Church Argument

- I.M. is in heaven, why not okay in the church?
  - dates back to 1865
  - Revelation 5:8, “Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”
    - Figurative language! 

# Waterfalls and Thunder!

- Revelation 14:2, “And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.”
  - If “harp,” why not the voice of many waters?
  - If “harp,” why not THUNDER?



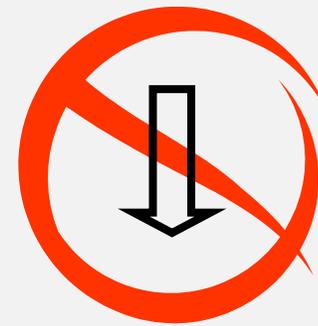
# 1 Corinthians 15

- “It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” (v. 44)
- “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption” (v. 50)
- Somehow we have an image that heaven is flesh and blood and that there are physical instruments made of wood and metal in heaven.

# What Is In Heaven Is Necessarily in the Church. . .

- INFANTS
- ANGELS
- THRONE

IN HEAVEN



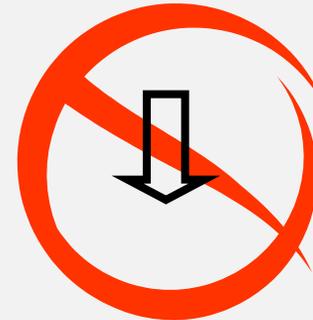
NOT IN THE CHURCH

# What Is In The Church is Not Necessarily in Heaven. . .

- Lord's Supper
- Giving \$
- Christians Marry

because an item is in one place doesn't necessitate that it is in the other!

IN THE CHURCH



NOT IN HEAVEN

*(1 Cor. 11:26; Mat. 22:30)*

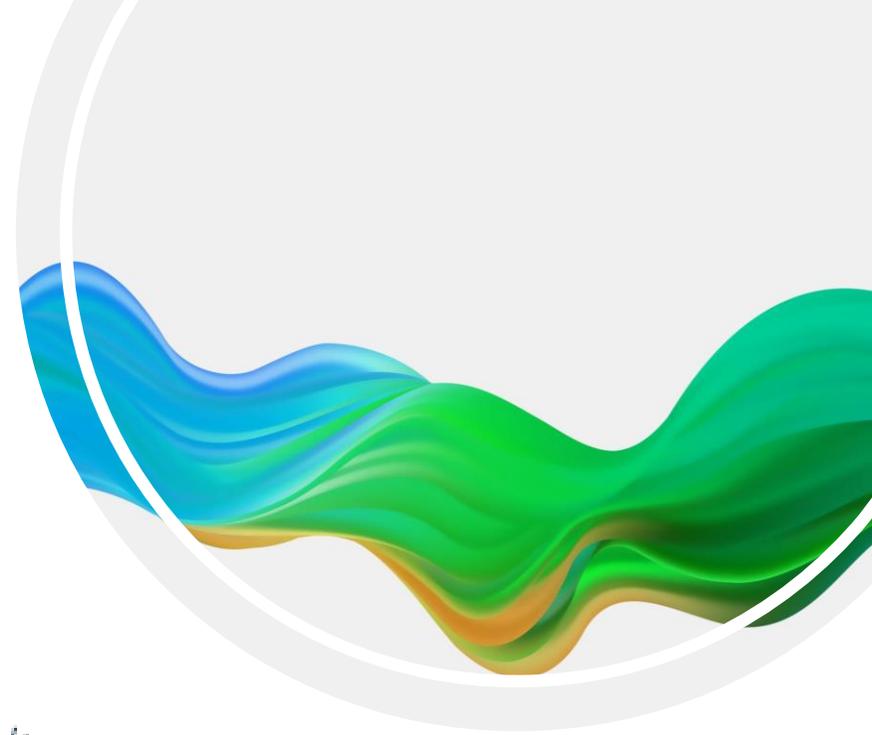
# God wants us to use our Natural I.M. Talents in worship



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# 1. NATURAL TALENT

- I.M. is a natural talent like singing, speaking.
  - we should therefore offer it up to God



# IS EVERYTHING NATURAL APPROPRIATE FOR WORSHIP?



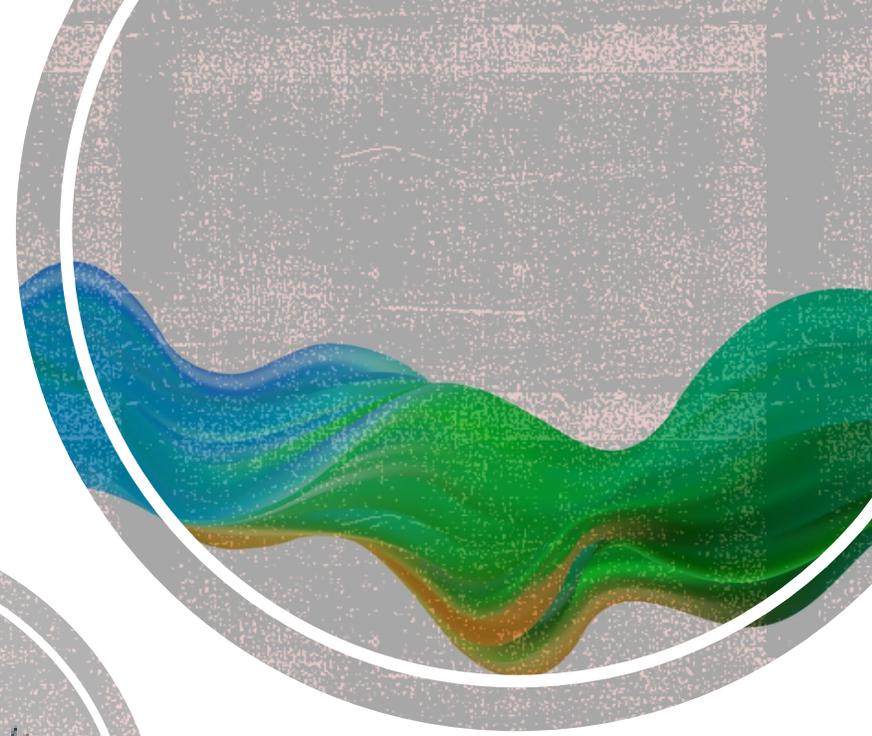
- cooking? –CHURCH COOK/KITCHEN!
- eating? –CHURCH KITCHEN!
- sleeping? –CHURCH BEDROOMS!
- acting? –CHURCH THEATRE
- playing video games? –CHURCH ARCADE!
- sports? –CHURCH WRESTLING SERVICE!

1 Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Romans 8:5, “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”



**IF IT IS OKAY AT  
HOME IT IS OKAY  
IN WORSHIP**



## 2. Home-Church Argument

- can listen to I.M. @ home, why not also at the church?

In Home	Not In Church
Eat	1 Cor. 11:22;34
Wash Feet	1 Tim. 5:10
“Father”	Matt. 23:9
Be Head of	Eph. 1:22,23

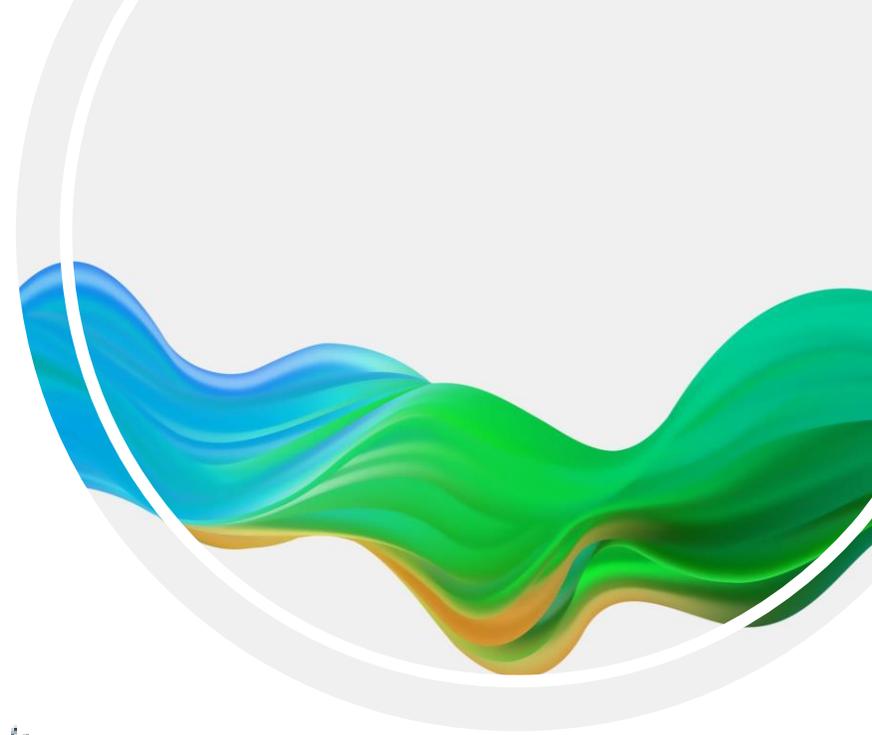
# Psallo infers use mechanical instrument (Eph. 5:19)



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## 4. THE “PSALLO” ARGUMENT

- The Greek word “Psallo” translated “make melody” requires an instrument
- “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and **making melody** [Gk. *psallo*] in your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19)



# IF *PSALLO* REQUIRES AN INSTRUMENT. . .

- “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and *making melody* in your heart to the Lord”
  - Ephesians 5:19 is a “one another” passage; not a “one for all” passage!
  - if “play an instrument” is required, then all must play



# THAYER ON *PSALLO* (STRONG'S 5567)

- 1) to pluck off, pull out
- 2) to cause to vibrate by touching, to twang
  - 2a) to touch or strike the chord, to twang the strings of a musical instrument so that they gently vibrate
  - 2b) to play on a stringed instrument, to play, the harp, etc.
  - 2c) to sing to the music of the harp
  - 2d) in the NT to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song



# WHAT IS BEING STRUCK & VIBRATED?

- “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody **in your heart** to the Lord”
  - the heart is struck
  - from the very instrument that vibrates with faith:
    - “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom. 10:10)



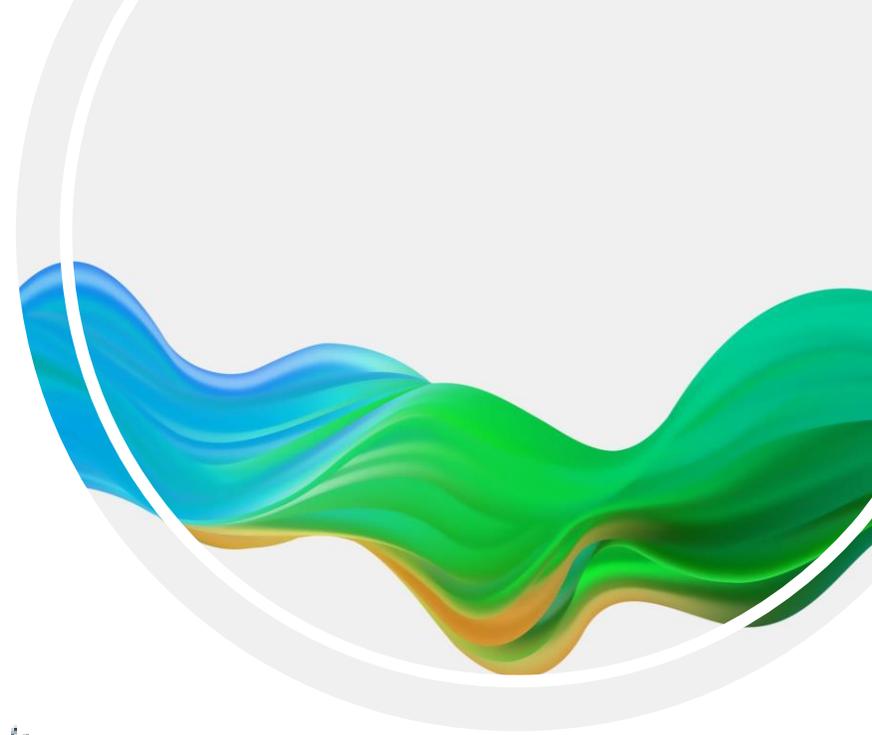
**IT IS DIRECTLY  
COMMANDED AND  
WE HAVE APOSTLE  
AND CHURCH  
EXAMPLES**



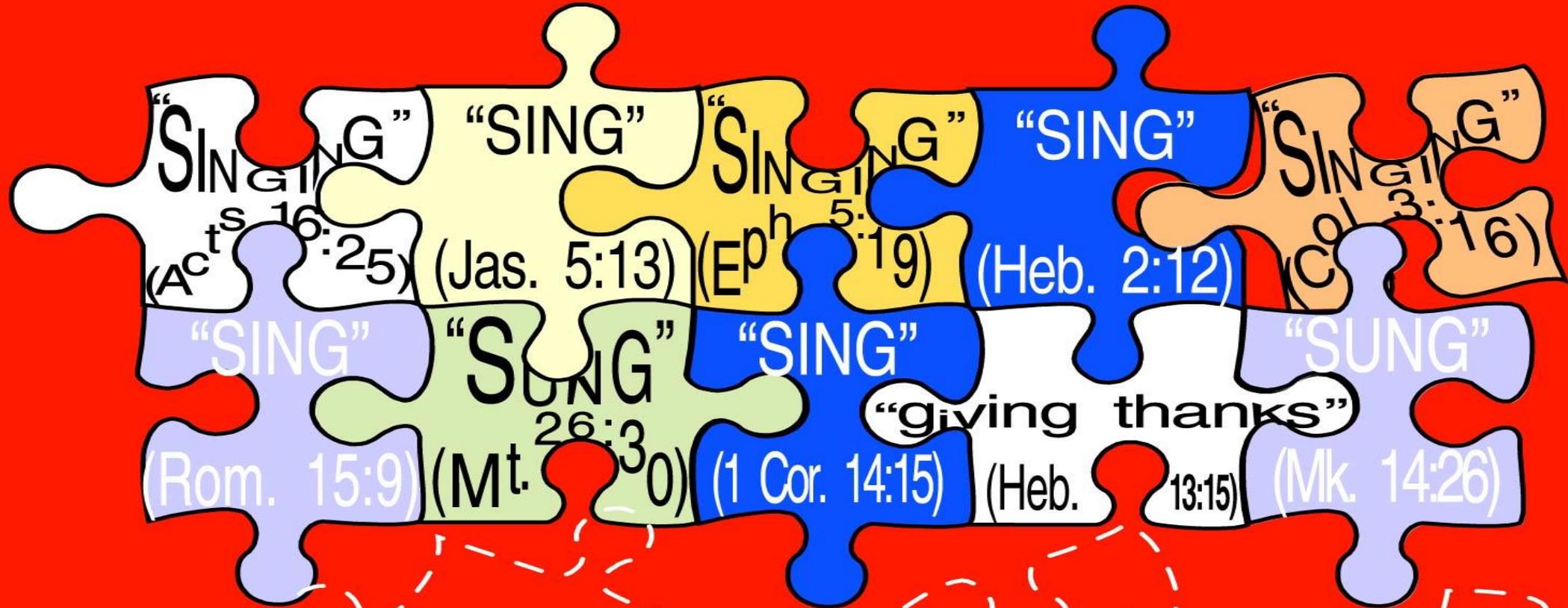
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# New Testament



*hum?*

*dance?*

*drum?*

# PATTERN FOR PRAISE

<sup>25</sup> And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

<sup>15</sup> What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the

<sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

<sup>26</sup> And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. I will I sing praise unto thee.

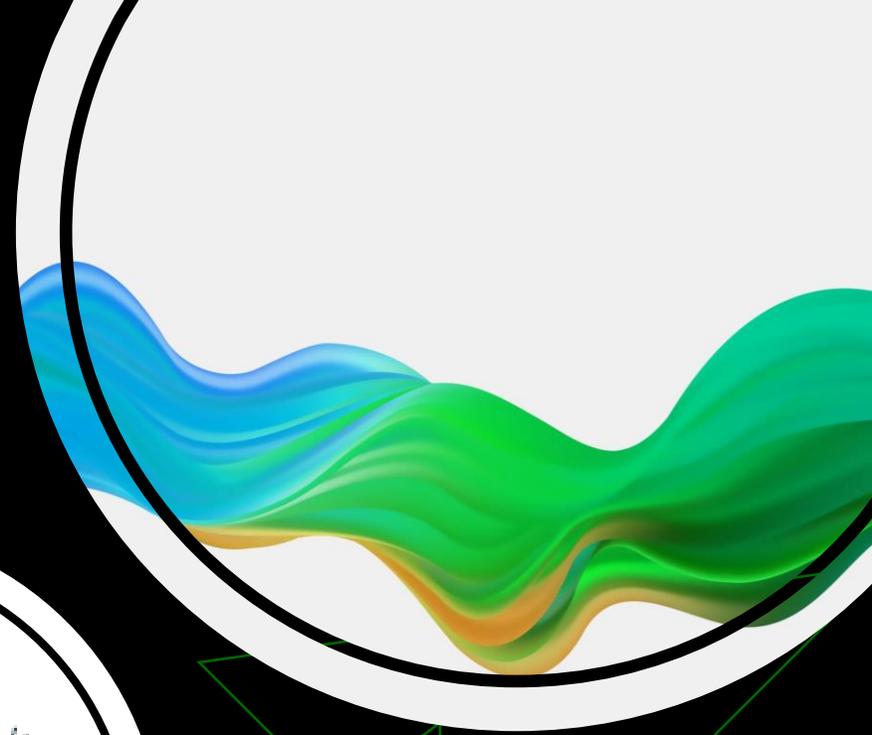
<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

<sup>30</sup> And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

PATTERN FOR PRAISE

# No I.M. in the New Testament Church



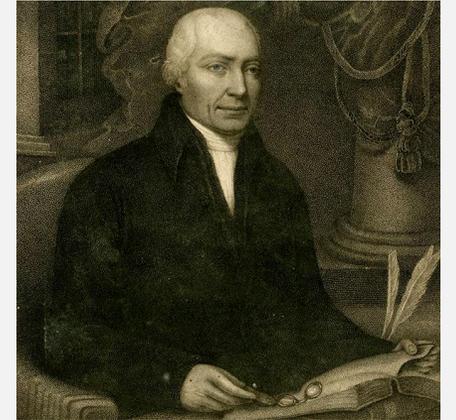
# Historical Dates

- 1860
  - 1<sup>st</sup> instrument added to Lord's church
- 670
  - 1st time instrument ever added successfully to a church's worship



# Voices of the Past

- Alexander Campbell, “But I presume, to all spiritually-minded Christians such aids would be as a cow bell in a concert.”
- Adam Clarke (**Methodist**) “I am an old man, and I here declare that I never knew them to be productive of any good in the worship of God, and have reason to believe that they are productive of much evil. Music as a science I esteem and admire, but instrumental music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music, and I here register my protest against all such corruption of the worship of the author of Christianity.”
- Charles Spurgeon (Baptist), “We might as well pray by machinery as sing by it” and “Israel was at school, and used childish things to help her learn; but in these days when Jesus gives us spiritual food, one can make melody without strings and pipes... we do not need them. That would hinder rather than help our praise. Sing unto Him. This is the sweetest and best music. No instrument like the human voice” (Commentary on Psalm 42)



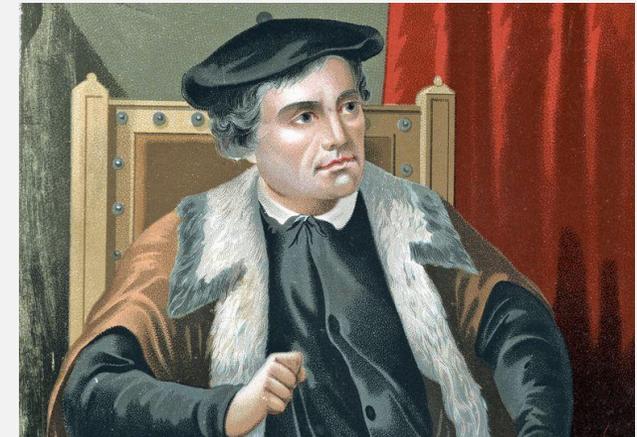
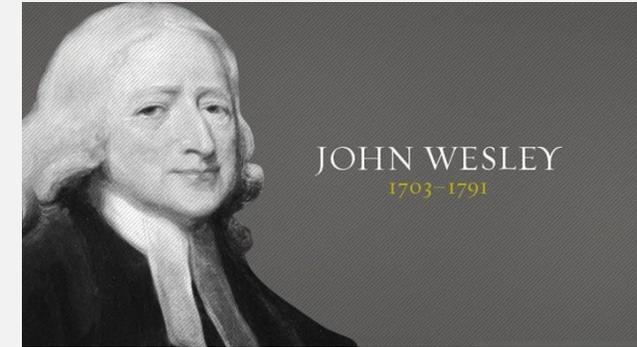
# Voices of the Past

- Lyman Coleman, "The tendency of this was to secularize the music of the church, and to encourage singing by a choir. Such musical accompaniments were gradually introduced; but they can hardly be assigned to a period earlier than the fifth and sixth centuries. Organs were unknown in church until the eighth or ninth centuries. Previous to this, they had their place in the theater, rather than in the church. they were never regarded with favor in the Eastern church, and were vehemently opposed in many places in the West" (Lyman Coleman, a Presbyterian, Primitive Church, p. 376-377)
- John Calvin, "Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law" (Psalms, Vol. 1, p. 539).



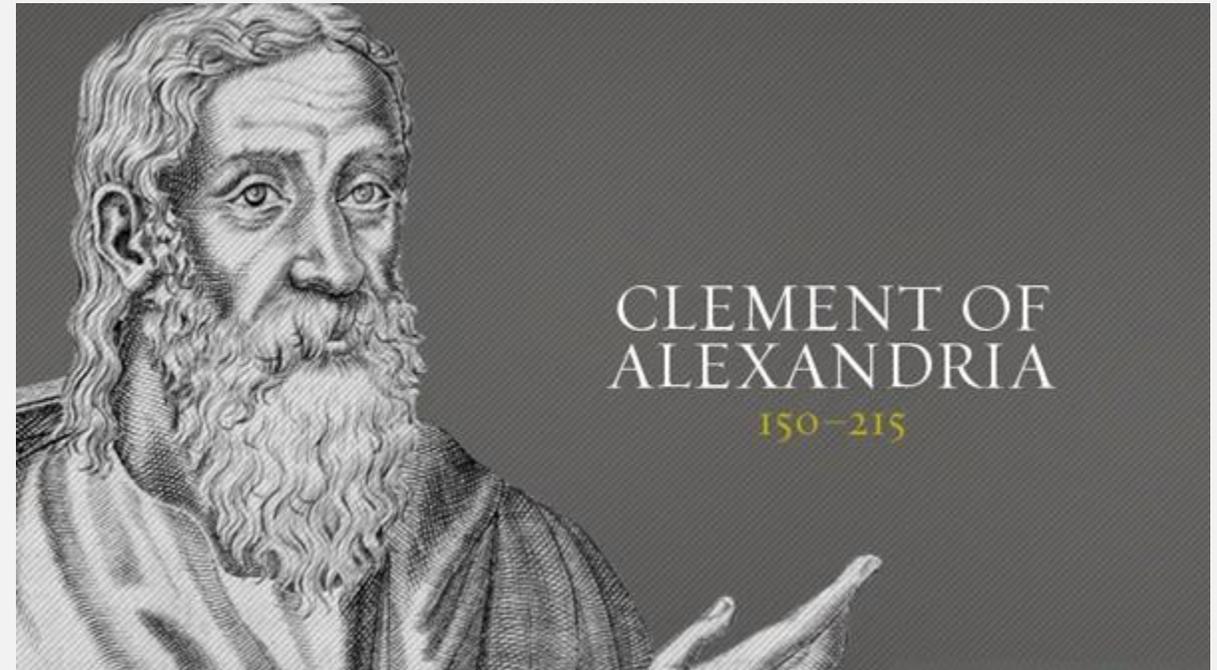
# Voices of the Past

- John Wesley (**Methodist**), “I have no objection to the organ in our chapels, provided it is neither heard nor seen.”
- Martin Luther, **Reformation Leader**, “The organ in the worship service is a sign of Baal” (Realencyklopadie Fur Protestantische Theologie und Kirche, Bd, 14, s.433 cited in Instrumental Music and New Testament Worship, James D. Bales, p. 130.)
- Thomas Aquinas, (**Catholic Theologian; 13th century**), “Our church does not use musical instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal, that she may not seem to Judaize” (Bingham's Antiquities, Vol. 2, p.483, London)

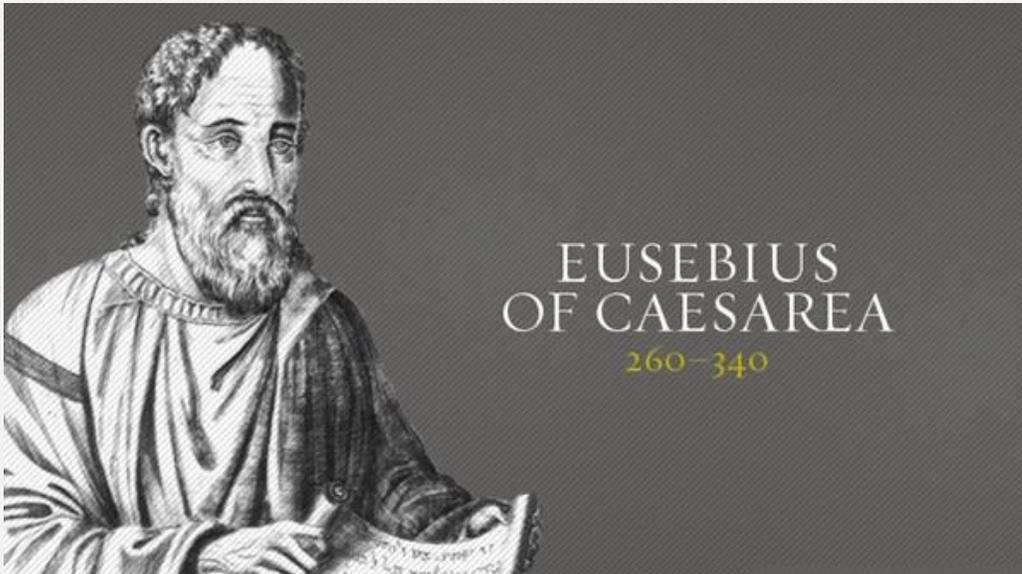


# Voices of the Past

- Catholic Encyclopedia, “Although Josephus tells of the wonderful effects produced in the Temple by the use of instruments, the first Christians were of too spiritual a fibre to substitute lifeless instruments for or to use them to accompany the human voice. Clement of Alexandria severely condemns the use of instruments even at Christian banquets” ([Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 10, p. 652](#))



# Voices of the Past



- Eusebius, c.a. 330 AD “Of old at the time those of the circumcision were worshipping with symbols and types it was not inappropriate to send up hymns to God with the psalterion and cithara and to do this on Sabbath days... We render our hymn with a living psalterion and a living cithara with spiritual songs. The unison voices of Christians would be more acceptable to God than any musical instrument. Accordingly in all the churches of God, united in soul and attitude, with one mind and in agreement of faith and piety we send up a unison melody in the words of the Psalms” (commentary on Psalms 91:2-3)

# INSTRUMENTS OR NO INSTRUMENTS IN CHURCH WORSHIP

## Instruments



1. Instruments were part of the old testament worship
2. God doesn't directly forbid it
3. It helps or aids the singing like a song book or a pitch pipe
4. Instruments will be in heaven
5. God would not have given individuals talents if He didn't want them to use it
6. If it is okay to do at home, it has to be okay at church
7. Psalms infer use mechanical instrument

## Acapella



1. Old Testament points to God only wanting singing in the new covenant
2. If God wanted instruments, He would have commanded them like He did in the old testament
3. NT examples and commands specify singing
4. Apostles were inspired by the Holy Spirit and the early church did not have instruments
5. Founders of prominent denominations who have instrumental music said it was wrong

