



*Chalmette  
Church of Christ*

*February 21st, 2016*

NEW TESTAMENT WORSHIP IN SONG

Rusty Stark

Music is a powerful thing. It came very early in human existence and has been a part of history ever since. "This is the oldest and most natural of all the fine arts, and therefore is found among all nations, however ignorant of every other art" (McClintock and Strong Encyclopedia). Music is first mentioned in Genesis 4:21. Jubal (the son of Lamech) was "the father of all such as handle the harp and organ."

Songs or singing were first mentioned in Genesis 31:27. Laban rebuked Jacob for sneaking away and not giving them the opportunity to send them away with "mirth and with songs, with tabret and with harp." When the Israelites were saved from their bondage in Egypt they celebrated with song (Exodus 15:1- 2).

In the New Testament we read: "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" (Col. 3:16). "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19).

Often we find ourselves involved in discussions like this:

Question, "Aren't you that church that doesn't have music?"

Answer: "No, that's not us. We have beautiful music of two types in our worship assemblies. We have singing because it is commanded in Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19. And, we also make music in our hearts as is commanded in Ephesians 5:19."

Question, "But you don't have pianos or things like that?"

Answer, "That is true. We do not use mechanical instruments of music in worship to God."

Question, "But why not?"

Answer, "For the same reason we sing and make melody in our hearts. We are doing what God commanded us to do."

Question, "But God didn't say not to use instrumental music in worship did he?"

Answer, "There are many things God didn't say not to do in worship. There is no command to not jump rope, stand on our heads, or whistle in worship either. The fact is, God does not authorize us to do such things." Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Two facts make the Lord's position (our position) abundantly clear and reasonable:

1. God commanded the use of instruments in worship under the Old Testament law. The two trumpets commanded in Numbers 10:2 were played along with their burnt offerings (v.10). 2 Chronicles 29:25 says they used instruments according to the commandment of God by Nathan, David, and Gad. Psalm 150 also commanded the use of instruments in praise to God. This resolves the question of whether or not instruments can be used simply as an aid to worship. They were commanded as an integral part of praising God in the Old Testament.

2. Instruments of music in worship to God is absent in the New Testament. There is no command for it as there was in the Old Testament. There is no example of it being used. There is no inference that can be fairly drawn that mechanical instruments of music can be used in praise to God in worship today.

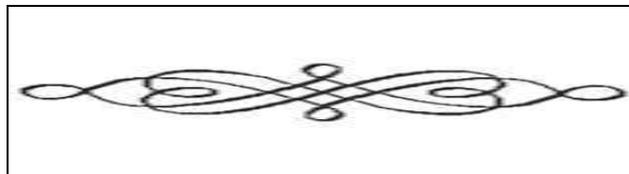
Is the absence of instruments of music in the New Testament an accident? Is it an oversight? Did God forget to tell us to use instruments? Since God left it out, don't you think we should be content without it?

Think of other things from the Old Testament that are not carried over into the New Testament.

We no longer practice animal sacrifice, even though the New Testament does not say not to. We no longer burn incense or light lamps. We cannot consistently point to the Old Testament as justification for using instruments of music in worship to God while we refuse to bring other Old Testament practices into our modern worship.

Look at it another way: We have exactly the two kinds of music God has commanded us to have: Singing (words with which we teach and admonish one another) and Making melody in our hearts.

What passage can you point to in the New Testament that justifies (authorizes) the kinds of music used in the church/denomination you attend?



## News & Notes

- There will be a weekly bible article in the St. Bernard Newspaper on Wednesday's.
- Our Third Sunday Singing and Fellowship Meal will be on February 21st. Bring a dish and a friend!
- Please keep **Cy Stafford** in your prayers at this time. He has made some improvements, but has a long way to recovery. He was diagnosed with Acute Leukemia. He is the brother to Tony that worships here from time to time. Cy has worked diligently for the Kingdom with the Tanzania Missions and has led many souls to Christ. Please send cards to encourage Cy, to show our love and encouragement. He will have a long recovery ahead of him.

His address:

Attn: Claude Stafford  
UAB Spain Center  
1700 6th Ave South  
Birmingham, AL 35249

- Our annual Ladies Day will be on April 9th with Dee Parramore as our speaker. More information is on the bulletin board.
- Please keep **Sherry Towle, Alice Riley, Margo Rodney, Malcolm Vazquez, and John & Bessy Hulsey and Ryder Howard** in your prayers at this time as they are each battling different illnesses.

### February Birthdays

26th-Crystal Russell

26th- Johnnie Wagner

# Prayer List



**Diane & Lewis Dedman**  
**Clifford Markum**  
**Sherry Towle**  
**Ella Gillard**  
**Krisztian Montague**  
**Addréan Jenkins**  
**Joel James**  
**Ryker Amaya**  
**Carol & Julio Calix**  
**Marie Pennington**  
**Elizabeth Smith**

\*All of our brethren scattered across  
the United States & our troops in  
Iraq



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**200 De La Ronde**  
**Chalmette, LA 70043**  
504-279-9438

Services of The Church  
Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am

AM Worship 10:00 am

PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

#### Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

#### Evangelist

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

[gospelpr@cox.net](mailto:gospelpr@cox.net)

#### Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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