Why Does It Matter

By

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One of the most important men in the fight against instrumental music in the Church was a man by the name of David Lipscomb, whom the college now university is named after.

Also N.B. Hardeman, who is the second name of Freed Hardeman University, debated Ira M. Boswell at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville in 1923 concerning the topic of instrumental music.

The influence of David Lipscomb:

In 1891 Lipscomb, along with James Harding began a school called Nashville Bible School. Lipscomb donated his farm on Granny White Pike in Nashville for the school. Upon his death, the name of the school was changed to David Lipscomb College and in 1988 it became known as Lipscomb University.

One of the earliest known introductions of music into worship was in Midway, Kentucky by L.L. Pinkerton in 1859. It was at this time division among brethren became rampant.

A QUOTE BY LIPSCOMB PERTAINING TO INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC:

“It seems there cannot be a doubt but that the use of instrumental music in connection with the worship of God, whether used as part of the worship or as an attractive accompaniment, is unauthorized by God and violates the oft-repeated prohibition to add nothing to, take nothing from, the commandments of the Lord. It destroys the difference between the clean and the unclean, the holy and the unholy, counts the blood of the Son of God unclean and tramples under foot the authority of the Son of God. They have not been authorized by God or sanctified with the blood of his Son. A Christian loyal and true to the Lord Jesus Christ cannot use them, nor in any way countenance the setting aside the order of God by adding to or taking from his appointments, even in the smallest matters, as washing of hands. While forbearance and love should be exercised in showing the sinfulness of their use, when the church determines to introduce a service not required by God, he who believes it wrong is compelled to refuse in any way to countenance or affiliate with the wrong. To do so is sin against God and his own conscience and to encourage by example others to violate their consciences and the law of God; it is to lower the standard of regard for the authority of God.”

Lipscomb was editor of the Gospel Advocate for some 40 years.

Some sad notes to point out about Lipscomb University:

First, they have liberal teachers in their Bible department

Second, they have had speakers at their “Summer Celebration,” such as Rick Atchley from the Hills Church (Richland Hills) of Fort Worth, Texas, Chris Seidman from the Farmers Branch (The Branch), and Don McLaughlin of the Church of North Atlanta, all of which endorse and have instrumental music in one or more of their services weekly.

There are also many churches in our area that have instrumental music in their services. There are churches in the Chattanooga, Murfreesboro, and the Nashville areas.

Some use the disguise, as we want to bring in the youth to our services and get them involved.

Some say they want to be up to date with the modern crowd today.

Still others say God has bigger fish to fry than worrying about a piano in worship.

Look at all of the poverty and injustice in the world. These are the things that matter, not whether we worship with an instrument.

God wants us to worship him. He doesn’t care how we do it.

I like to hear the sound of the instruments. They liven up the worship.

I am glad to see churches of Christ moving into the twenty first century. We need to blend with modern society.

We need to appeal to the younger generation. Instrumental music is one way we can do that.

Whatever the reason for bringing in instrumental music, it is wrong and sinful. In other words, today instead of quoting scripture for our references as to why we do or don’t do things, we simply go on feelings, which is wrong and sinful.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE AUTHORITY:

The reaction of modern society about instrumental music should tell us a few things.

First: There is an urgent need for more teaching about the requirement for Bible authority for what we believe and practice. (Col. 3:17)

Second: We should recognize that lack of teaching would lead to softness and error. (Hosea 4:6)

Third: Reliance on human wisdom is gratifying to the individual, but it will lead one away from God. (Prov. 14:2)

Fourth: It is important to know why we believe as we do. (1 Peter 3:15)

Fifth: We must draw a clear line of distinction between truth and error. (II Tim 4:1-4)

Look and Nadab and Abihu and their reasoning

What about other wood than gopher wood for the ark?

What about when God told Moses to speak to the rock and he struck the rock?

THE BIBLE SPEAKS ABOUT FOUR KINDS OF WORSHIP:

1. True Worship: (John 4:23-24; John 17:17)—Worship is crucial to God, and the way or manner in which we worship determines whether or not it is true worship in the sight of God.
2. Vain Worship: (Matt 15:9) One must be careful about ridiculing worship which is in spirit and in truth while, at the same time, promoting worship for which he can find no Bible authority.
3. Ignorant Worship: (Acts 17:16) Even today some perceive that their worship is acceptable, but it is invalid because it is not according to truth.
4. Will Worship: (Col 2:23) Will worship is self devised worship. The term embraces voluntarily adopted worship whether unbidden or forbidden. It is a type of worship which men invent for themselves even though it may be unbidden or forbidden