Old Testament Instruments

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It is easy in today’s world to trivialize worship. Instead of using “Where the Bible speaks, we speak, and where the Bible is silent, we’re silent,” approach; we are using various approaches such as, feelings, emotions, traditions, modernization, etc.

For us as Christians today to stay the pattern of the Church, we must keep the pattern of the first century church ongoing no matter what people do today concerning the church.

Despite their many struggles and tribulations in the first century, the church at Corinth had to give diligence to faithfulness and attention to obedience. If we don’t think we have to do this today we are sadly mistaken. If we continue trying to modernize worship, then we will fall by the wayside into a Devil’s Hell.

The argument that many use today about the use of instrumental music is that they were used in the Old Testament, thus that makes them usable in the New Testament. Does that make a valuable argument for the use of instruments in the Church today?

Our question today is, “instrumental music in worship today is approved because of its approval in the Old Testament.”

FIRST: To imply that “instrumental music in the Old Testament was never approved by God,” is difficult to argue. Let’s look at some scripture for an answer on this.

II Chronicles 5:13-14 “It came even to pass, as the trumpeter and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house is filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; (14) So that priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for t he glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.”

II Chronicles 7:6—“And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of music of the Lord, which David the king had made to praise the Lord, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.”

Psalms 33:1-3—“Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. (2) Praise the Lord with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. (3) Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.”

Psalms 92:1-3—“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High. (2) To show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, (3) upon and instrument of ten strings, and upon psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound.”

Psalms 150:1-6—“Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. (2) Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. (3) Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. (4) Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. (5) Praise him upon the loud cymbals. Praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. (6) Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”

We have to admit that David and others used the instrument in worship, even if it was with a passive approval by God.

The Jews described in the book of Acts knew of the worship of instruments in the Old Testament but only used their voices in the New Testament Church.

To say that we need to keep the Old Testament practices along with the New Testament practices was a battle fought by many of the apostles including Paul. Paul had to fight against those who want to enforce circumcision, which was no longer a requirement under the new law.

Second:

Some say that instrumental music was introduced before the Law of Moses, thus it was not done away with at the cross since it was not under the Law of Moses.

The problem with this logic is that if our worship patterns were found under Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, or Joseph, then we would be required to offer animal sacrifices, appointing a Levitical priesthood, burn incense in a building, and worship in a temple today as well since those also came before the Law of Moses.

Third:

Some say that since Psalms 150 shows the use of instruments and and Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 both require us to sings Psalms, then we must use instruments in our worship. Again however, the Psalms also show the use of animal sacrifices, do we do that?

Fourth:

It is also argued that people in the OT were filled with joy by using instruments, so surely we can express joy in the same way.

I Chronicles 15:6 “Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers, accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy”

The problem with using this chapter is the fact that in verses 14-16 you find the approval of a Levitical Priesthood, the ark of the covenant, verse 26, animal sacrifices, verse 29, dancing.

It is safe to say that all of us believe that the Old Testament was written for our learning and as a history of what happen with God’s chosen people before the coming of Christ.

We also believe that with Christ death, burial, and resurrection, the Old Testament was nailed to the cross forever.

We also believe that our worship plan is set forth in the New Testament and we have enough provided for us to follow today. We do not need to add to or take away from the scripture in any way, shape, form, or fashion.

Today when man adds the instrument to worship, he is adding it only because he chooses to do it for his favor, not God’s pleasure.