

Denominational Doctrines

Part 2 - Instrumental Music

Introduction:

- A. First thing noticed by new visitors.
- B. Instrumental music is common to almost all denominations.
 - 1. It has not always been. (Clarke's comments)
 - 2. It is now the exception and not the rule.
- C. Instrumental music subject to three basic objections:

Discussion:

I. No New Testament References To It.

- A. Only singing. (Mt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Jas. 5:13).
- B. Figurative references. (Rev. 5:8; 14:2; 15:2).
 - 1. If literal, then other things too.
 - 2. If in heaven puts it in church: angels, infants, etc.
- C. Old Testament references. (Psalms 150, cf. Gal. 5:1-4)
 - 1. N. T. worship not same as O.T.
 - 2. Also animal sacrifices, etc.

II. No New Testament Principles Include It.

- A. Does not have to be specified to be authorized or forbidden.
 - 1. Abraham's expedients for offering. (Gen. 22:2-3).
 - 2. Jewish synagogue apparently under general authority to teach, etc.
 - 3. Golden calf not specified, but graven images were.
 - 4. Church buildings, song books, preacher's home, etc.
- B. Does have to be included in generic terms if not specified.
 - 1. Illustrated by common every day affairs.
 - 2. Illustrated by Bible examples. cf. Gopher wood.

III. New Testament Principles Exclude It.

- A. It is a human tradition like hand-washing ritual. (Matt. 15:1-9)
- B. It does not respect silence of the scriptures. (Heb. 7:11-14).
- C. It goes beyond doctrine or gospel of Christ. (2 John 9-11; Gal. 1:8,9).
- D. It adds to the word of God. (Rev. 22:18-19).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us understand seriousness of unauthorized religious activity. (Cain, Nadab & Abihu)
- B. Let us content ourselves with scriptural things in worship.
- C. Let us sing without adding some other kind of music.
- D. Let us sing with all of our ability, improve it when we can.