



**THIS STUDY IS ON WHY WE SHOULD NOT USE
INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC IN OUR WORSHIP
SERVICE TO GOD TODAY.
GRANTED THIS IS NOT THE POPULAR IDEA IN
CHURCHES TODAY...BUT WE WANT TO BE
ONE WHO CAN SAY WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL**



"I COUNTED"

THE KIND AND TYPE OF MUSIC AUTHORIZED IN THE NEW COVENANT-- ACTS 2---REV 22

As in all the studies we interest ourselves in--This issue of music is crucial to the way we are to come to God in our Worship service.

For those who see nothing wrong with the use of instruments in Worship this would be educational and informative for you.

Please enjoy the study. But first an exercise--a study on "righteousness that comes from God on\by our faith."

Suggested text reading is Phil 3:4-11 with emphasis on V.9.

Phil 3:4 (ASV) though I myself might have confidence even in the flesh: if any other man thinketh to have confidence in the flesh, I yet more: **5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 as touching zeal, persecuting the church; as touching the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless. 7 Howbeit what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ, 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own, [even] that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith: 10 that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed unto his death; 11 if by any means I may attain unto the resurrection from the dead.**

This Text tells us "Righteousness"--Our "right actions" are demanded from those who would be "righteous" with God in Christ...

[1]Romans 3:5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.) (NKJV) [a]-Righteousness of God = God's faithfulness or truthfulness which is consistent with God's own nature and promises.

[2]Romans 3:25-26 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (NKJV)

[1] Message to mankind=God's righteousness as put forth in the death of Christ WHICH IS SUFFICIENT TO SHOW MEN THAT GOD IS NEITHER INDIFFERENT TO SIN NOR REGARDS SIN LIGHTLY.....

[2] Here, God's "righteousness" or "right actions" demonstrates that **quality of holiness in God** which must find expression in **God's condemnation of sin.**

RIGHTEOUSNESS = That is whatever is right or just in itself--
whatever conforms to the revealed will of God--

Matthew 5:6 Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after
righteousness: for they shall be filled

Matthew 5:10 Blessed [are] they which are persecuted for
righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall
exceed [the righteousness] of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in
no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

[a]-Righteousness--of whatever has been appointed by
God to be acknowledged and obeyed by man—

Matthew 3:15 --But Jesus answered and said to him,
"Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to
fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. (NKJV)

[i] Finally we look at "righteousness" as the "sum total"
of the requirements of God—**Matthew 6:33** "But seek
first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all
these things shall be added to you. (NKJV)"

Remember--very important "key" concerning "righteousness--answer this question: What determines whether or not "an act of man" is either -righteous- or-unrighteous?

The Answer is the "relationship" Me as a Minister--in relationship of Husband to wife-Minister to elders, congregation, community, God. A person could treat His\her spouse "well" that is honor and respect them--and, still be "unrighteous in their relationship with God .

The Next Step -- an examination of the type\kind of music used in the Old Testament Prior to the giving of the Mosaic Law.

Let's start from the O.T.

Where is instrumental music authorized in the O.T. ? I.E. It is obviously used and approved but where is it "okay" to use it? Likewise, where is Synagogue worship authorized? SO LET'S BEGIN:

There are three [3] periods of time to be examined just in the Old Testament. But never fear, we shall finish the first two in this study.

We are concerned about what we can do in our worship that is well pleasing to God. History is replete with folks who had good intentions--honest and sincere but ended up on the wrong side of God.

So, it seems that from God's point of view--what we do or don't do in our worship to Him is important. So, in the section prior to the flood there is not much information available--especially concerning music. We find prayer and the offering of Sacrifices in Gen 13:4.

In Gen 4:21--we have the development of the instruments of music. and we also find circumcision as a religious rite to mark those in the covenant family.

In part two--after the flood to the time of the giving of the law at Sinai--the first reference to music of any kind is with Laban and Jacob in Gen 31:27.

Next--we will take the issue of the third portion from the time of the law given by God to His people and we will begin to work through this.

For a reference point I suggest that one might read Amos 5:23 & 6:5 which seems to be how God feels about "music" produced by His people somewhere around the eighth century.

We are at this time going to look at the development of the instrument in the worship from the time of Mt. Sinai through the rest of the Old Testament.

It can be said that **the ENTIRE RELIGION OF ISRAEL** has as its reason for being--**A COVENANT RELATIONSHIP, A PACT OR CONTRACT between GOD and the Nation He chooses.**

[1] This pact or contract is made at Mt. Sinai during the time of Moses--PLEASE READ DEUT 7-8-9 & then center in on Deut 7:6-15.

[a] GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND THE SUBSTAINER OF THE COVENANT and it is clear that His people are indeed stubborn and rebellious..

[2] In the beginning of the relationship between God and Israel--God spells out in very precise detail the responsibilities of the Israelites in worshipping their God.

[a] This does include the use of the Instruments—

Numbers 10:10 "Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God." (NKJV)

OBSERVATION--when folks tell me that the OT used instruments in worshipping God--that is true--the issue is-- Are we authorized to use same today. I also find it interesting to inquire as to what time period in the OT they are referring to--because it does change--as we are about to explore together and thus see for our selves.

Yes, there is a "time period" when music in Israel in worship to God makes a dramatic change.

It begins with King David and is further helped with King Solomon, David's Son.

PRIOR TO DAVID--or, more aptly, their first King IT WAS the "woman" who played a major role in the performance of music. Ladies like Miriam and Deborah and the characteristic use is a picture of a female chorus, dancing and singing accompanied by frenzied drum beating.

With King David--the role in the music of Israel changes-- He begins to use "professional" musicians that quickly become active in the temple and the royal court--thus eliminating rather effectively the role of woman in music.

Yes, David has started the changes but His Son, Solomon are brought to fruition--who also built the temple.

[a] Read I Chron. 25--and you will read that He appoints trained and educated people in singing and the playing of the instruments-1 Chronicles 25:6

All these [were] under the direction of their father for the music [in] the house of the LORD, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman [were] under the authority of the king. (NKJV)

Now we progress to the prophet Amos--God's folks are in trouble--God refuses to listen to either their songs nor to the sound of their harps.--Amos 5:23

In Amos 6:5 More and even stronger condemnation of those who pattern themselves after King David who composed songs.

This concludes the "Old Testament" study and while brief it does cover everything.

Now-we will begin our study of the New Testament.. When we are talking about "new" we are talking about the "Old" being totally replaced with something "new."

1]John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, [but] grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

[2]John 12:47-49 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him -- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 "For I have not spoken on My own [authority;] but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. (NKJV)

Please notice the following carefully.....

[1]Jesus says that He did not speak on His own initiative--but taught what His Father gave Him to Speak.

[2] Jesus did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

[3] Jesus tells us that it will be HIS WORDS that will Judge each and everyone of us--that means we will not be judged by the methods used by Abraham nor by Moses and the Old Testament "Law" given at Sinai--which our studies have already shown did include the instrument in worshipping God.

However, the problem of whether or not to use the instrument in our worship constitutes just a portion of the real problem.

WHAT IS OUR AUTHORITY FOR WORSHIPPING GOD TODAY

Folks it is limited to the "NEW" Covenant not the Old because it has been replaced with something far better.

THEREFORE, folks--if we are going to find authorization for the use of the instrument today--We must find its "authorization" in the New Testament. **POINT--A VITAL ONE--**this is overlooked by those claiming the use of the instrument in our worship today. And, that is--the complete revelation of God's will to man.

[a] God's total revealed will to man was not revealed in the "garden" certainly to none of the "Patriarchs" nor to Moses and the Old Covenant and finally not in the personal ministry of Jesus Christ here on earth.

[i] John 16:12-13 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear [them] now. 13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority,] but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. (NKJV)

[ii] It is obvious here that from reading Jn 15:26-27\ JN 17:8, 12-21 that Jesus is speaking to His apostles

[ii] Conclusion is that by the time the last Apostle has perished--ALL THE TRUTH HAD BEEN DELIVERED!!!

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. (NKJV)

point--What Jesus and His Apostles tell us today has to be the "authority" for everything we do or- in what we don't do in worshipping God today.

Paul, says it as well as it can be stated forevermore.

[1]Ephesians 5:10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. (NKJV)

[a]Ephesians 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. (KJV)

[2] 1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. (NKJV)

[a]1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. (KJV)

Did you catch that?--ONLY those thing which we can prove can we use in our worship--Paul says it is GOOD

What a joy it would be to God if all should eliminate from their work\worship those things they cannot prove are "well-pleasing" to God.

Next --two things--first what will please God? and second -- what are some of the things we are not to use in determining what is well pleasing to God?

We will start by looking at the things we are not to use in deciding what is well-pleasing to God in our worship to HIM.

We are going now look at some things we are not to use in determining what to use in our worship to God.

[1]Certainly--not that which we ourselves THINK NOR BELIEVE IS RIGHT WILL PLEASE GOD.

[A]Proverbs 14:12 There is a way [that seems] right to a man, But its end [is] the way of death. (NKJV)

[B]John 16:2 "They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. (NKJV)

[2] NOR can we let our perverted thoughts and desires determine what is well-pleasing to God.

[a]Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man [is] not in himself; [It is] not in man who walks to direct his own steps. (NKJV)

[b]Isaiah 55:8-9 " For My thoughts [are] not your thoughts, Nor [are] your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (NKJV)

Ok--it is pretty easy to see "what won't work" in making decisions so now lets look at what Jesus says is "acceptable."

[1]John 8:29 "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me a lone,for I always do those things that please Him." (NKJV)

We see how Jesus really believed this by reading-John 8:28 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am [He,] and [that] I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. (NKJV)

If Jesus did nothing of Himself, why should we claim the liberty to do so now for ourselves.. Jesus did nothing that he could not prove His Father wanted Him to do....

Let's chew on this also--First, a partial list of things God's people had to do under the Mosiac Law\Covenant.

[1]Deut 16:16--Male had to make three trips a year to a place of God's chosing--Jerusalem

[2] DEUT 14:8--Commanded not to eat the pig or, rabbit

[3]Lev. 19:30--Keep the Lord's Sabbath

[4] Ps. 66:15--offering of burnt sacrifices

[5]Lev. 3:17--shall not eat any fat

[6] Numbers 10:10 Blowing of trumpets over: burnt offerings--peace offerings

[7] Deut 35:10 The burning of Incense

Under the "OLD COVENANT" the Jews were obligated to keep these commandments.

That is no longer true under the New--the Old was totally done away with and replaced with the New.

Authorization for our worship then must come out of the New Testament and not from the Old--Next we will look at some reasons why we cannot use the old.

From the above we just finished listing some OT "rules\laws" that those folks had to do--Now, we also determined that we are under a Newer and better covenant.

When we attempt to "bring forth" some of these OT "rules" and tell us that it is alright to use them today--we need to stop and read:

[1]Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin. (NKJV)

[2]Romans 7:10 And the commandment, which [was] to [bring] life, I found to [bring] death. (NKJV)

Ok Why do we in the church of Christ not use instruments in our worship to God today--and most importantly-- we have the the question:

"Is the use of the Instrument in NT Worship a sin?"

First--What governs the life of a Christian today? Is it the OT--the Old Covenant wshich brings the knowledge of sin and according to Paul, brings death and not life.

No, it isn't that OLD Covenant is it?

<consider Old covenant From Gen 1 to Acts 2>

The NT governs the life of the Christian today.. Remember-- Jesus said in Jn 12:47-49 that "His Words" would "judge us!"

So--when we start looking to see if the instrument in worship today is well-pleasing to God and thus well-pleasing to Jesus--we look at the NT remembering also that after the death of the last apostle we have the total revelation of God's will for man--finished.

Here then is the evidence--From the RSV

[1]Matthew 26:30And when they had \sung a hymn,/ they went out to the Mount of Olives. (RSV)

[2]Acts 16:25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and \singing hymns to God,/ and the prisoners were listening to them, (RSV)

[3]Romans 15:9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise thee among the Gentiles, and \sing to thy name";/ (RSV)

[4]1 Corinthians 14:15 What am I to do? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will \sing with the spirit/ and I will \sing with the mind also./ (RSV)

[5] Ephesians 5:19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, \singing/ and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, (RSV)

[6] Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and \sing /psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (RSV)

[7] Hebrews 2:12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I \sing praise/ unto thee. (KJV)

[8] Hebrews 13:15 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. (KJV)

[9] James 5:13 Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him \sing praise./

To this point every text in the NT that hints about any type and kind of Music is covered. If I missed one--please let me know. In dealing with "commands" in the Bible we have two types-- [1] Specific; [2] Generic

A very good example of this type of command that is readily discernable to the novice in bible Study is Noah and the Ark.

God told Noah to build the Ark out of Gopher wood--this is a "specific command." This command by its very nature has to eliminate every other type and kind of wood.

If However, God had said to build an ark--That leaves it pretty open to use any type and kind of wood Noah wanted to use.

Here, by carefully looking at each text--one thing is very clear--the "command" is a specific as you can get--every time--the specific command is "SING"

WHICH BY ITS NATURE--ELIMINATES ANY AND ALL OTHER TYPES OF MUSIC--INCLUDING THEN THE INSTRUMENT.

You see, for the command to be "generic" all that is needed is "Make music" thus allowing us the liberty to choose whatever we want.

Now, reread the scriptures in the Above--they all say it loud and clear--SING...

So, by searching the Covenant we are "under" that is the words of Christ--by diligently searching His Words--His words that will one day judge us--we learn that the command is SPECIFIC---SING!!!

Now, the part no one likes to discuss--Is the use of the Instrument in our worship to God a sin?

To use the instrument is a violation of a specific command of God--and that makes it sin.

Galatians 1:7-9 but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again,if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received,let him be accursed.(NKJV)

Now, let's look at our attitude in this matter by first looking at Noah's.

What is Noah said--well--I know God said sure enough to build this ark out of Golpher wood--but kids, God didn't say--I couldn't use Oak.

Do you honestly and truly suppose that God would of looked at Noah and said--Gee, Noah, that is alright--If you want to use Oak -- go ahead I don't care.

Whom is trying to kid whom here? This is man's exact problem in attempting to find authority for the use of the instrument today.

Now, this situation did not come up with Noah--and, do you know why? Noah had faith in God to do it--His Way...

Folks who want to use the instrument today lack that degree of Faith needed to do it God's Way.

When it comes to being a NT Christian--do we insist that all males to become a Christian must be circumcised before they can be a child of God?

Why don't we insist on that circumcision today?

The answer is obvious--It is not authorized in the New Testament today...that is why we don't.

To be a Christian and when we search God's New Covenant--we learn that baptism is required and that baptism is a burial in water for the remission of our sins--So why be Baptized? We know that it is "well-pleasing" to God--a command of God.

[a] The Word baptism itself specifies the mode of baptism--a burial in water--a specific command. It automatically eliminates every other form of baptism i.e. Sprinkling--pouring--or that of the counterfeit Holy Spirit.

[b] The Bible does not come out and state--Thou shalt not baptize by sprinkling--But then, it doesn't have to--

Folks it is identical with the use of the instrument in our worship today--It says "sing" and thus by its nature-- [specific command] eliminated any other type\kind of music.

So the NT specifies singing--we sing because we can PROVE that "singing" is "well-pleasing" to God and WE OFFER the sacrifice of praise, the fruit of our lips[Heb 3:15]--uttering by the tongue words easy to be understood--doing this with the spirit and the understanding[I Cor 14:9,15]--in Which music WE SPEAK to one another—

TEACH AND ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER in PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS and MAKING MELODY in our hearts to the Lord--Eph 5:13; Col 3:16.

We cannot prove that God accepts the use of instruments in our worship to God under the New Covenant which NOW JUDGES US--and, no matter how much other folks disagree—

THEY CANNOT PROVE THAT GOD IS PLEASED WITH THE USE OF THE INSTRUMENTS IN THEIR WORSHIP TO HIM..

**So we have learned some things together
about God's desire for the use of
instruments in our worship.**

**Does being "well-pleasing" to God cease
after "baptism?"**

**The examples we have in the Old Testament
is that God has no toleration for folks
wanting to do it their way.**

**Nadab and Abihu had eaten with the Elders
of Israel and with God and then they take it
upon themselves to "not listen" to the
commands of God in the matter of fire--and
God destroyed them for their offense.**

A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE EPHESIAN AND COLOSIAN LETTERS

[1] On the Word of Christ--that it must dwell in us richly.

[2] On speaking, teaching and admonishing in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

[3] On making melody in our hearts to the Lord.

[4] On singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord

[5] On giving thanks always

[6] On doing all in the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST...

Now sort of separate and apart from the scriptures showing the non use of the instrument--Let us listen to men--not God but men who have left a mark in the history of man--not as an authority--but to simply show what they are saying about this.

[1]John Calvin-an outstanding founder of the Presbyterian Church:"Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, the restoration of the other shadows of the Law.

This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruption in the worship of the author of Christianity.-John Calvin's Commentary, 33rd Psalm.

[2] Adam Clarke, perhaps ever their greatest commentator among the Methodists says "Music as a science I esteem and admire: but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor.

This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the author of Christianity." Clark's Commentary vol 4, page 686.

[3]John Wesley-reputed founder of the Methodist church is quoted by Adam Clarke to have said, "I have no objection to insturments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen. Clarks commentary, vol 4, p. 686.

[4] Martin Luther, a distinguished reformer, "Called the organ an instrument of Baal." McClintock & Strongs encyclopedia, music, vol 6, p. 762

[5]Charles H. Spurgeon, recognized as the greatest Baptist preacher that ever lived, preached for twenty years to thousands of people weekly in the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle, London, England, did not have musical instruments in the worship. M.C.Kurfees, Instumental music in Worship page 196.

[6]Conybeare and Howson, famous scholars in the church of England in their commentary on Eph 5:19

state: "Make melody with the music of your hearts, to the Lord...Let your songs be, not the drining of heathen feasts, but psalms and hymns, and their accompaniment, not the music of the Lyre, but the melody of the heart. Life and Epistles of St. Paul vol 2.,p. 408.

Food for thought isn't it?

The following definations are given for your consideration... and... understanding of Eph 5:19 and the kind of "music" used in the NT Church.

SPEAKING[PROSLALEO]: Speak; to speak to or with

SING [ADO]: Praise God; praise to God

HEART [KARDIA]: Man's entire mental and moral activity; the inner man-spiritual life, the thoughts, understanding, reasoning power, imagination, conscience, intents, purpose, will and faith of man emits from the heart!

[PSUCHE]: The soul or life

MELODY[PSALLO]: NT--to sing a hymn, sing praise

SONG [ODE] An ode, praise to God, spiritual to specify exact kind of song

HYMN [HUMOS] A song of praise addressed to God.

PSALMS[PSALMOS]:

- 1. To pluck the hair**
- 2. To twang a bowstring**
- 3. To twitch a Carpenters line**
- 4. To touch the chords of a musical instrument, that is to make instrumental music.**
- 5. To touch the chords of the human heart, that is to sing, to celebrate with hymns of praise.**

"Question" which meanings can apply to Eph 5:19??????

ANSWER: #5

Col 3:16 "...Singing- -in your hearts to the Lord."

Matt 26:30 "..they had sung a hymn."{Mk 14:26}

Acts 16:25 "...prayed and sang praises unto God."

Rom 15:9 "...and sing unto thy name."

I Co.14:15 "..Sing with the spirit & sing with understanding"

James 5:13 "..let him sing psalms" **

****Psalm is the word used by some to justify instruments in worship to God today.**

Note however that in our study verse--Paul tells:

- 1. What we do--Speaking, singing and making**
- 2. How to do it--Songs,{Spiritual} hymns & psalms**
- 3. Where do we do it?--IN your heart**

4. To Whom?--YOURSELVES AND TO THE LORD

The above definitions are taken from 17 different Greek lexicons:

[1] Liddell & Scott;

[2] Robinson

[3] Pickering

[4] Groves

[5] Donnegan

[6] Parkhurst

[7] Dunbar

[8] Bagster

[9] M. Wright

[10] W. Greenfield

[11] Yonge

[12] Contopoulos

[13] Edward Maltby's Greek Gradus

[14] Hamilton

[15] Thayer

[16] Sophocles

[17] Thomas Sheldon Green and a dictionary that is popular--Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words.

An OT Example--Abraham--because Abraham accepted the Word of God-- making it his own by that act of mind and spirit which is accepted--Abraham submitting himself to its controll--God accepted Abraham as one who fulfills the total of His Requirements--This is important for it truly works this way for us also.

PLEASE OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO ROMANS 4:3-16 AND READ NOW.

Roma 4:3 (ASV) For what saith the scripture? And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness. 4 Now to him that worketh, the reward is not reckoned as of grace, but as of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is reckoned for righteousness. 6 Even as David also pronounceth blessing upon the man, unto whom God reckoneth righteousness apart from works, 7 [saying], Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, And whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom, the Lord will not reckon sin. 9 Is this blessing then pronounced upon the circumcision, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say, To Abraham his faith was reckoned for righteousness.

10 How then was it reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision: 11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while he was in uncircumcision; that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be in uncircumcision, that righteousness might be reckoned unto them; 12 and the father of circumcision to them who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham which he had in uncircumcision. 13 For not through the law was the promise to Abraham or to his seed that he should be heir of the world, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if they that are of the law are heirs, faith is made void, and the promise is made of none effect: 15 for the law worketh wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. 16 For this cause [it is] of faith, that [it may be] according to grace; to the end that the promise may be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

A brief review of faith and belief in Christ with this question--How does any man get faith--ANSWER is found in Rom 10:17.

**Roma 10:17 (ASV) So belief [cometh] of hearing,
and hearing by the word of Christ.**

**[A] In OT--to believe in God is to acknowledge Him
as such--AS GOD...**

**[B] There are four items in believing in God in the
OT. They happen to be the same today.**

They are TRUST--HOPE---FEAR--OBEDIENCE.

**Faith in the OT you see is based on "what God has
done" i.e. God's promise to Abraham--God
protecting His people during the ten plagues--the
wilderness journey--the giving and then the taking
of the promised land.**

**So then in the OT Faith is based on what God has
done.**

[C] In the New Testament--FAITH IS UNDERSTOOD AS BEING PROMISHED FROM GOD'S WORD..

[i] For Faith to be "righteous" to be "of God" Faith must also contain: Trust\Obedience\Hope\faithfulness.

Trust\Obedience\Hope\faithfulness.

Trust\Obedience\Hope\faithfulness.

Trust\Obedience\Hope\faithfulness.

Philippians 2:6-11 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 1 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.(NKJV)

[a]Here we see that Christ is the object of faith.

faith. Also-1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. (NKJV) and lets add—

Romans 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, (NKJV)

JESUS IS THE OBJECT OF OUR FAITH

**AGAIN, Jesus is the object of our faith
Therefore, to "believe" in Christ is to
acknowledge Him--Romans 10:9 that if you
confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus
and believe in your heart that God has
raised Him from the dead, you will be
saved. (NKJV)**

Our last text was Rom 10:9 where to believe in Christ is to acknowledge Him. AND, ONE'S FAITH LEADS TO ACTION.. Romans 10:14 But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? (RSV)

AND,--after calling on Christ one is baptized--Romans 6:3-5 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, (NKJV)

[a] According to V. 4-- baptism is a burial in water and
[b]according to Acts 2:38 baptism is for the forgiveness of sins

THEREFORE--BAPTISM --that is being buried in water with Christ for the remission of sins puts that person in a living alive personal relationship with Christ--Romans 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, (NKJV)

Ok--now we can "look" at Phil 3:9 with a couple of questions:

How Does Paul tell us he found Christ--and, to be found in Christ?

[A] Key word here is "found" it falls under the umbrella of God's gracious gift to man--found is thus defined as: Find, after seeking, discover or come upon' Find, come upon accidentally--without seeking--without previous search--to find[by chance]

[B] Good time to re-read--Phil 3:3-11--ok?

First then, how did Paul find Christ?--Accidentally, without seeking--without previous search--to find or to discover by chance rather than by intent--

Acts 9:1-3 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. (NKJV)

Now back in Phil 3:3-11 what does Paul tell us about Himself?--

[1] He was circumcised when 8 days old{here the stress is that Paul was born into the Jewish faith & had known its privileges and observed its ceremonies since birth.}

[2] More importantly Paul was of the race of Israel especially of the tribe of Benjamin.

[a] Tribe of Benjamin was the "elite" of Israel

[b] Benjamin was the child of Rachel--well loved wife of Jacob

[c] Out of all the 12 Patriarchs only Benjamin alone had been born in the promised land{Gen 35:17-18}

[d] First King of Israel came out of Benjamin

[e] When the 12 tribes split--Benjamin remained true to Judah

[f] When Israel returned from the exile--it was from the tribes of Benjamin that formed the nucleus of the reborn nation{Ezra 4:1}

[g] Tribe of Benjamin has the place of honour in Israel's battle line[Judeges 5:14\Hosea 5:8]

POINT--All of this is Paul's heritage by birth..

Now, Paul talks about His attainments by choice..

[1] He was a hebrew born of Hebrew parents--as the Jews were dispersed all over the World--Jews frequently forgot their native language--not true with Paul--

[2]As far as the law Goes--Paul was a trained Pharisee

[a] Pharisee by the viture of their name meant "separated ones"--They were the "spiritual athletics" of Judaism...never more than about 6,000 at a time.

[b] Goal of the Pharisee was to keep every smallest detail of the law.

[3] As far as zeal goes--Paul had been a persecutor of the church--Therefore as far as the "righteousness" of the law was concerned--Paul was blameless.

So with this background Paul found Christ by accident--not by design and not by desire. Paul's "righteousness" was that of the Law.

**Now the second part is also interesting- V. 8--"I counted" -
-Here, I counted is not a "snap decision but a decision
Paul has reviewed many times in his life AFTER ACTS 9-
thru-Phil.**

**So for Paul the second idea of "found" goes this way-
regardless of how Paul found Christ--Paul is not going to
turn loose of Christ**

**The conclusion then of all of this is Philippians 3:9 and be
found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is
from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the
righteousness which is from God by faith; (NKJV)**

**Listen well to what Paul is saying--To the Jews and to us--
Paul was #1 as a Jew seeking desperately by obedience to
the Law to be righteous--but as a Jew was unrighteous in
"God's eyes" simply because Paul Sought to establish His
relationship with God in a way other than by Faith.**

**All of us not just those who use the instrument in
worship to God ought to carefully listen to Paul here. let
our righteousness be of faith--not of things that are well-
pleasing to man.**

**"IF" for what ever reason--by design by accident by purpose
you and I have found Christ**

**[1] Hearing, believing what is heard and then responding to
what is heard--repenting, being buried in water for the
remission of our sins-- becoming then a child of God.**

**However, that is not the issue nor the problem. The
following is an exercpt from a man who teaches that baptism
is a burial in water for the remission of sins..but note well his
message..**

**Read just a few words of this guy- "Whether Satan's servants
call their polytheistic philosophies "trinitarianism",
"triunity", or whatever.--smokescreen or deception..**

**Whether they philosophise about pies being sliced or apples
being diced...Why do trinity filth want you to reject the
name of Jesus?**

Yet this man teaches the importance of Acts 2:38

[2] The Seventh Day Adventists {I believe?} also teach Acts 2:38--but also teach many other errors. i.e/There ain't no hell

[3]The Christian Church also teaches Acts 2:38--but practise the instrument in worship and, are there others?

The Jews--remember them? They traced their heritage from Abraham and it cost them.

Yes, Baptism is essential to salvation--it puts one in Christ--gives us the forgiveness of sins--but please note this one vital and important fact----

BAPTISM DOES NOT KEEP ONE IN A RIGHTEOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH CHRIST FOREVER.

The question is--Can we today afford to take the chance by "adding" to the worship "items" God has not authorized?

You can answer that question by reading the OT and noticing how God dealt with the problem when folks went beyond.

You can answer that question by reading the OT and noticing how God dealt with the problem when folks went beyond.

We are not a unique people just because you and I are alive in the here and now--our responsibility is like Paul's "I COUNTED!!" determined not to turn loose of Jesus Christ.

From the pages of the "Church Fathers" and for several hundred years folks abhorred and detested the "idea" of any musical instrument in Worship.

And, in spite of all the evidence--folks truly believe that they know better than God--One more lesson from history-- We close with some evidence that is impossible to ignore in this study of instruments in Worship.

[1]THE AMERICAN CYCLOPEDIA-- "Pope Vitalian is related to have first introduced organs into some of the churches of Western Europe about 670--but the earliest trustworthy account is that of the one sent as a present by the Greek Emperor, Constantine Copronymus to Pepin, king of the Franks, in 755. Vol 12, p.688.

[2]Chambers Encyclopedia--vOL 7 P.112

[3]Schaff-Herzop Encyclopedia--In the Greek church the organ never came into use. but after the 8th century it became more and more common in the latin church; not, however, without opposition from the monks. Vol 2. p.1702

[4]FESSENDEN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA--p.852--ART. MUSIC

[5]LONDON ENCYCLOPEDIA--VOL 15, P.280, ART. MUSIC

[6] ENCYCLOPEDIA BY J.NEWTON BROWM[BAPTIST]

That instrumental music was not practiced by the primitive Christians, but was an aid to devotion in later times is evident from church history

[7]NEANDER'S CHURCH HISTORY vOL 3. P.1

These witnesses practically say the same thing--this material is available to all.

Now let's read this text--Matthew 15:9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.

The question is this--When anyone "teaches" or "inserts" in this case the use of instruments in one's worship to God that is clearly not authorized by God--what does that make it?

It makes it a "doctrine" of man--not a doctrine of God.

We live in a world and in a place that allows each of us freely to make up our minds on these issues.

My problem is this--If God is indeed--no "respector of persons" God is not going to reward the faithful who do not use the instrument in their worship in the same way God will with those who "choose" to so use it in their worship to God-- To any and all who have "gone beyond" what is authorized by GOD....

It is my fervent prayer that those who use the "instrument" will listen to God in this matter of Faith--and make the choice not to use it--and, to make that choice not on personal choice--but on the basis of the authority of God who wants to rule our hearts and our lives.

While having to read many many pages--you are at the same time receiving a brief presentation of over 15 years of study as I was once a fervent proponent of the use of the instruments.

My choice was to "set aside my feelings" and follow after God--It is not without cost--but like Paul I would that all of us could say as He,

"I COUNTED!"

May God bless each who struggles with this.

THE END