

Worship by the Church

I. PREACHING:

- Goal—Love, purity, good conscience, sincere faith (1 Tim 1:5)
- Upon first day of week (Acts 20:7)
- Accurate use of the Word (2 Tim 2:15-16)
- Avoid foolish controversies (Titus 3:9)

II. PRAYING:

- Prefaced by a Holy Life (1 Tim 2:8)
- In Jesus Name (John 16:26)
- Led by men, when men present (1 Tim 2:12)

III. GIVING:

- Upon the first day of the week (1 Cor 16:1-2)
- For Needs of Christians (2 Cor 8:4; Acts 2:45; 6:1-4)
- For Preaching (Phil 4:15-16; 1 Cor 9:9-11)
- As you have ability—Not OT tithing. (2 Cor 8:12; 9:7)

IV. LORD'S SUPPER:

- Upon the first day of the Week (Acts 20:7)
- Done WEEKLY—not quarterly or yearly (Acts 2:42)
- Done REVERENTLY—not carelessly (1 Cor 11:27-30)

V. SINGING:

- Nine NT passages—all vocal (Mt 26:30; Acts 16:25; Rom 15:9; 1 Cor 14:15; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Heb 2:12; Heb 13:15; Jas 5:13)
- Instrumental Music Used only in OT.
 - 1) Commanded by prophets (2 Chron 29:25-28)
(1 Chron 6:31-32; 1 Chron 23:5; Ps 150; 1 Chron 25:1; 15:16)
 - 2) Accompanied every OT restoration under:
 - ❖ Hezekiah (2 Chron 29:25)
 - ❖ Josiah (2 Chron 34:12)
 - ❖ Ezra (Ezra 3:10 & Nehemiah 12:27)

HISTORICAL TESTIMONY

Oxford History of Music; Vol.2; 1961; p.1-3.

“By early Christian music we mean the chant of the Christian Churches up to the end of the fifth century A.D...”

W.J. Conybeare & J.S. Howson commenting on Ephesians 5:19

“When you meet, let your enjoyment consist not in fullness of wine, but fullness of the Spirit; let your songs be, not the drinking-songs of heathen feasts, but psalms and hymns; and their accompaniment, not the music of the lyre, but the melody of the heart; while you sing them to the praise, not of Bacchus or Venus, but of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Conybeare & Howson, Life & Epistles of St. Paul, p.775)

TESTIMONY OF EARLY BELIEVERS:

I. CHURCH FATHERS

AQUINAS "Our church does not use musical instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal, that she may not seem to Judaize." (Thomas Aquinas, Bingham's Antiquities, Vol. 3, page 137)

AUGUSTINE "musical instruments were not used. The pipe, tabret, and harp here associate so intimately with the sensual heathen cults, as well as with the wild revelries and shameless performances of the degenerate theatre and circus, it is easy to understand the prejudices against their use in the worship." (Augustine 354 A.D., describing the singing at Alexandria under Athanasius)

CHRYSOSTOM "David formerly sang psalms, also we sing today with them; he had a lyre with lifeless strings, the church has a lyre with living strings. Our tongues are the strings of the lyre, with a different tone, indeed, but with a more accordant piety." (Chrysostom, 347-407)

ERASMUS "We have brought into our churches certain operatic and theatrical music; such a confused, disorderly chattering of some words as I hardly think was ever in any of the Grecian or Roman theatres. The church rings with the noise of trumpets, pipes, and dulcimers; and human voices strive to bear their part with them. Men run to church as to a theatre, to have their ears tickled. And for this end organ makers are hired with great salaries, and a company of boys, who waste all their time learning these whining tones." (Erasmus, Commentary on I Cor. 14:19)

MARTYR "Simply singing is not agreeable to children (Jews), but singing with lifeless instruments and with dancing and clapping is. On this account the use of this kind of instruments and of others agreeable to children is removed from the songs of the churches, and there is left remaining simply singing." (Justin Martyr, 139 AD)

II. RESTORATION LEADERS:

CAMPBELL "To those who have no real devotion or spirituality in them, and whose animal nature flags under the oppression of the church services, I think that instrumental music would be now only a desideratum, but an essential pre-requisite to fire up their souls to even animal devotion. I presume to all spiritually-minded Christians, such aids would be as a cow bell in a concert." (Alexander Campbell, *Memoirs of A. Campbell*, p 366)

III. VARIOUS SCHOLARS

CALVIN "Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law. The Papists therefore, have foolishly borrowed, this, as well as many other things, from the Jews. Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in that noise; but the simplicity which God recommends to us by the apostles is far more pleasing to him. Paul allows us to bless God in the public assembly of the saints, only in a known tongue (I Cor. 14:16) What shall we then say of chanting, which fills the ears with nothing but an empty sound?" (John Calvin, *Commentary on Psalms 33*)

CATHOLIC "Although Josephus tells of the wonderful effects produced in the temple by the use of instruments, the first Christians were of too spiritual a fibre to substitute lifeless forms of instruments or to use them to accompany the human voice. Clement of Alexandria severely condemns the use of instruments at Christian banquets." (Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol X, p. 648-651)

CATHOLIC "For almost a thousand years, Gregorian chant, without any instrumental or harmonic addition, was the only music used with the liturgy... The church has never encouraged and at most only tolerated the use of instruments. She enjoins in the 'Caeremonials Episcoporum', - that permission for their use should first be obtained from the ordinary. She holds up as her ideal the unaccompanied chant, and polyphonic, a-capella style. The Sistene Chapel has not even an organ." (Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol 10, p. 673-688)

MCCLINTOCK "The Greek word 'psallo' is applied among the Greeks of modern times exclusively to sacred music, which in the Eastern Church has never been any other

than vocal, instrumental music being unknown in that church, as it was in the primitive church." (McClintock & Strong, Vol. 8, p. 739).

MCCLINTOCK "The general introduction of instrumental music can certainly not be assigned to a date earlier than the 5th and 6th centuries; yea, even Gregory the Great, who towards the end of the 6th century added greatly to the existing church music, absolutely prohibited the use of instruments. Several centuries later the introduction of the organ in sacred service gave the place to instruments as accompaniments for Christian song, and from that time to this they have been freely used with few exceptions. The first organ is believed to have been used in the Church service in the 13th century. Organs were however, in use before this in the theater. They were never regarded with favor in the Eastern Church, and were vehemently opposed in some of the Western churches." (McClintock and Strong, Cyclopaedia of Biblical Literature, Vol 6, p. 759)

WESLEY "I have no objection to instruments of music in our worship, provided they are neither seen nor heard." (John Wesley, founder of Methodism, quoted in Adam Clarke's Commentary, Vol. 4, p. 685)

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We need to follow the Lord's Will ~~ in the Lord's church.

Mat 15:8-9 This people honors ME with their lips, but their hearts are far from me, 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'"