

Why We Do Not Use
MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS
IN OUR WORSHIP TO GOD



*"... The Sacrifice of Praise To God,
That Is The Fruit of Our Lips . . ."*

Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

WHY WE DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN OUR WORSHIP TO GOD

◆ Not Because:

- ✧ They are evil in and of themselves -
- ✧ Of Mere Preference -
- ✧ Of historical tradition in churches of Christ -



“... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips ...”

Letter from the Shepherds About Using Musical Instruments

**HUNTER HILLS
Church of Christ**



October 13, 2013



“Hunter Hills is a wonderful place to have as a church home. It is full of people who want to honor God in every aspect of their lives. We desire to be a group of people who love unconditionally and whose desire is to serve others. Our members come from all walks of life and from varied church backgrounds. Over time, Hunter Hills has become a church which believes in freedom in Christ and has moved away from legalism. Because of this, members have differing views about what they value and desire in corporate worship.”

“... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips ...”

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October 13, 2013



“Over the past few months, the shepherds have had several conversations with some of our members, including our staff, about their desire to add an instrumental service on Sunday morning separate from our current service which has acapella congregational singing. Before we make a decision on their request, we wanted to communicate this to all of our members and get feedback on whether or not this would be a beneficial move for our church family.”

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October 13, 2013



We want our members to know that all the shepherds agree that scripture does not prohibit the use of instrumental music in our assembly. Each of us has come to that conclusion independently after many years of study and prayer. In fact, instrumental music has been used as background on video clips and as a part of our youth assemblies for some time. These would not be present if we felt their inclusion was not acceptable to God.

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Given our longstanding tradition of acapella singing which many, including the shepherds and staff, highly value and want to continue; we feel that this decision should not be taken lightly. We want to set a direction that is in the best interest of the whole congregation for the present and for the future. We pray that the decision made will be supported by our church family. We are convinced that most of our members are here because of relationships and opportunities to serve.

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October 13, 2013



We certainly hope that these values will continue to prevail regardless of what views anyone might hold on this question. . . . The comments are valuable, so please share how you feel. While the survey does require that you submit your name, individual input will be kept confidential among the shepherds. We would like the input of the whole church before making a decision about this request.

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

WHY WE DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN OUR WORSHIP TO GOD

◆ But Because:

- * There is no New Testament authority for using mechanical instruments of music in worship – Col 3:17



The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos



WIKIPEDIA
Die freie Enzyklopädie

Present-day Christian religious bodies known for conducting their worship services without musical accompaniment include some Presbyterian churches devoted to the regulative principle of worship, Old Regular Baptists, Primitive Baptists, Plymouth Brethren, most congregations among the churches of Christ, the Old German Baptist Brethren, the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church and the Amish. Many Mennonites also conduct some or all of their services without instruments.

"Worshipping God In Spirit & In Truth"

WORSHIP MUST BE IN SPIRIT & TRUTH



John 4:23-24 (NKJV)

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- ◆ In spirit, i.e., spiritual
 - * Physical ordinances of the OT were until "the time of reformation" (He 9:9-10), i.e., the NT.
 - * NT worship is more in keeping with the nature of God & relates more to the spiritual side of man.

"Worshipping God In Spirit & In Truth"

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◆ In Truth, i.e., real

- * More in keeping with the new spiritual reality AS OPPOSED TO "SHADOW (SYMBOL)" WORSHIP...
- * Many elements of worship in the OT were simply a shadow or figure of that to come . . .

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We should expect the worship in this age, to which the shadows in the OT pointed, to be governed by the spiritual realities which now exist, and therefore be different from that of the shadow.

"Worshipping God In Spirit & In Truth"

WORSHIP MUST BE IN SPIRIT & TRUTH

OT - carnal (fleshly) ordinances cf. Heb 9:1-10	NT worship geared more to spiritual side of man
A physical structure (tabernacle / Temple)	Temple spiritual, Christians - 1 Co 3:16; Ep 2:19-22
Special priesthood, clothing for priests	All Christians priests, spiritual sacrifices - 1Pe 2:5,9
Lamp stands, burning incense	Prayers sweet incense - Re 5:8
Instruments of music	Melody made in heart - Ep 5:19
Feast days	Lord's Supper - 1Co 10:16-17
Animal and meal sacrifices	Spiritual sacrifices - He 13:15; Ro 12:1-2

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

THE "REGULATIVE PRINCIPLE" OF WORSHIP

(Deut. 4:2; John 4:24; Rev 22:18,19)



- * Cain & Able - Gen 4:1-7
- * The ark - Gen 6:9-22
- * The tabernacle, ark & service - Ex. 25:9,40; 26:30; Num 8:4
- * Nadab & Abihu - Lev. 10:1-3
- * Uzziah - 2 Chron. 2:16-21
- * Scribes & Pharisees - Mt 15:7-9
- * The church - John 4:21-24; 2 Tim 1:13; Heb 8:5

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

THE "REGULATIVE PRINCIPLE" OF WORSHIP

(Deut. 4:2; John 4:24; Rev 22:18,19)



- * Everything the New Testament has to say regarding music in worship must be considered.
- * The totality of revelation on the matter is the pattern for our worship. (2 Tim 3:16,17)
- * Silence does not authorize.
- * When God specifies a thing then we transgress if we change it. (2 John 1:9)

“...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips...”

The New Testament Pattern

Acts 16:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.



"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

The New Testament Pattern

Romans 15:9 (NKJV)

⁹ and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name."



"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

The New Testament Pattern

1 Cor. 14:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.



“...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips...”

The New Testament Pattern

Ephesians 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ speaking to one another in
psalms and hymns and spiritual
songs, singing and making melody
in your heart to the Lord,



"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

The New Testament Pattern

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.



"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

The New Testament Pattern

Hebrews 2:12 (NKJV)

¹² saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."



"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

The New Testament Pattern

Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.



“... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips...”

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY

**FACT: NO
RECORD OF
MECHANICAL
INSTRUMENTS
BEING USED
PRIOR TO
666 A.D.—**

According to James William McKinnon, there is not one reference to instrumental music in the worship of the church in the “Fathers” from the second century through the beginning of the fifth (about 150 references in all).

“... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips ...”

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY

**FACT: NO
RECORD OF
MECHANICAL
INSTRUMENTS
BEING USED
PRIOR TO
666 A.D. –**

- *Clement of Alexandria (150 AD)*
- *Justin Martyr (150 AD)*
- *Origen (200 AD)*
- *Methodius (250 AD)*
- *Eusebius (300 AD)*
- *Basil of Caesarea (330 AD)*
- *John Chrysostom (350 AD)*
- *Cyril of Jerusalem (350 AD)*
- *Athanasius (350 AD)*
- *Isadore of Pelusium (400 AD)*
- *Apostolic Constitutions (400 AD)*
- *Jerome (400 AD)*
- *Augustine (400 AD)*

“... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips . . .”

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



Justin Martyr (A.D. 139)

Justin Martyr (A.D. 139):

"The use of [instrumental] music was not received in the Christian churches, as it was among the Jew, in their infant state, but only the use of plain song. . . . Simply singing is not agreeable to children [*the aforementioned 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."

"... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips ..."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



Tertullian (ca. 160 AC)

Tertullian (c. A.D. 200):
"Musical concerts with viol and lute belong to Apollo, to the Muses, to Minerva and Mercury who invented them; ye who are Christians, hate and abhor these things whose very authors themselves must be the object of loathing and aversion."

"... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips . . ."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



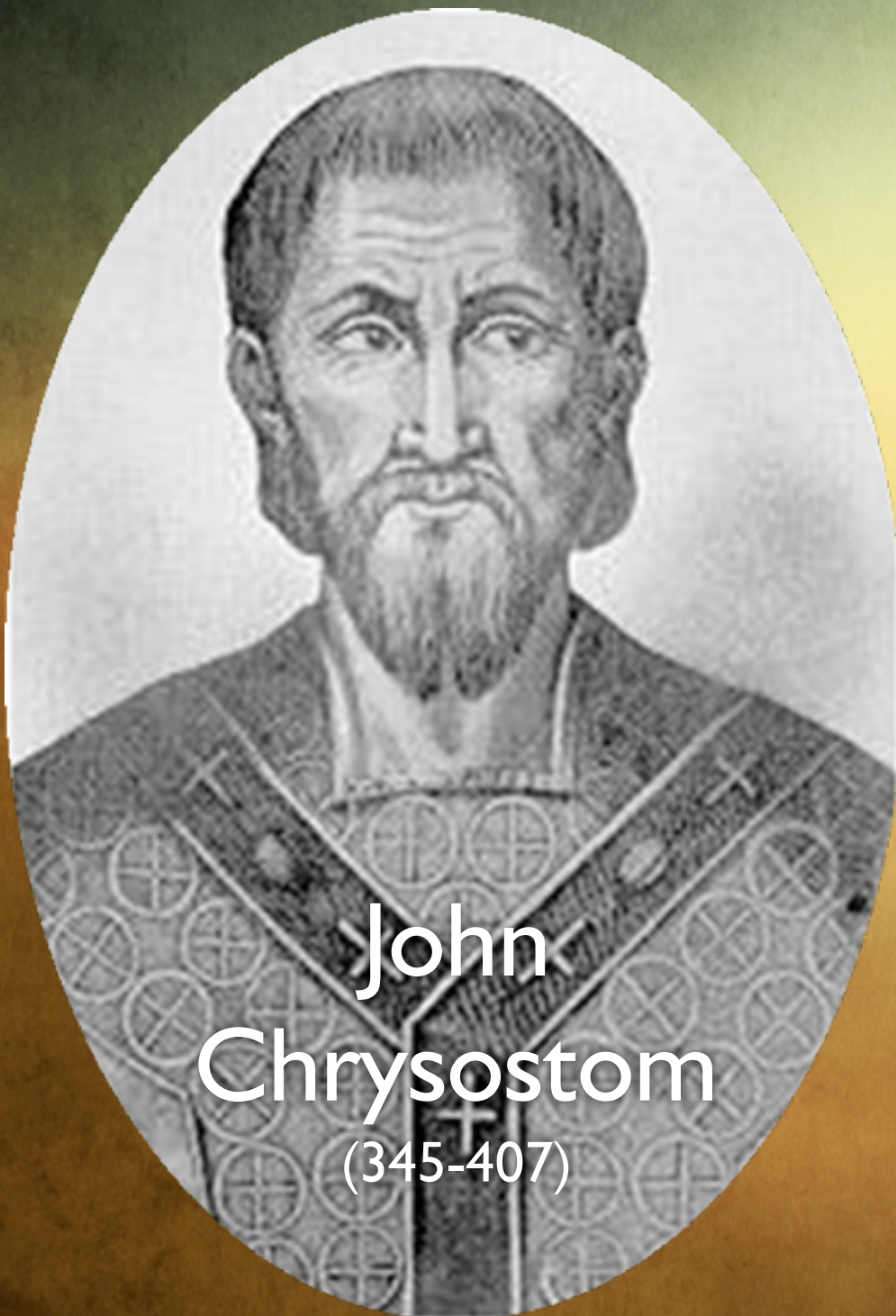
Eusebius (264-340 AC)

Eusebius (260-340):

"Of old at the time those of the circumcision were worshiping with symbols and types it was not inappropriate to send up hymns to God with the psalterion and kithara . . . But we in an inward manner keep the part of the Jew, according to the saying of the apostle . . . [Romans 2:28f]. We render our hymns with a living psalterion and a living kithara, with spiritual songs. The unison voices of Christians would be more acceptable to God than any musical instrument" (Comments on Psalm 92:2-3).

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



**John
Chrysostom**
(345-407)

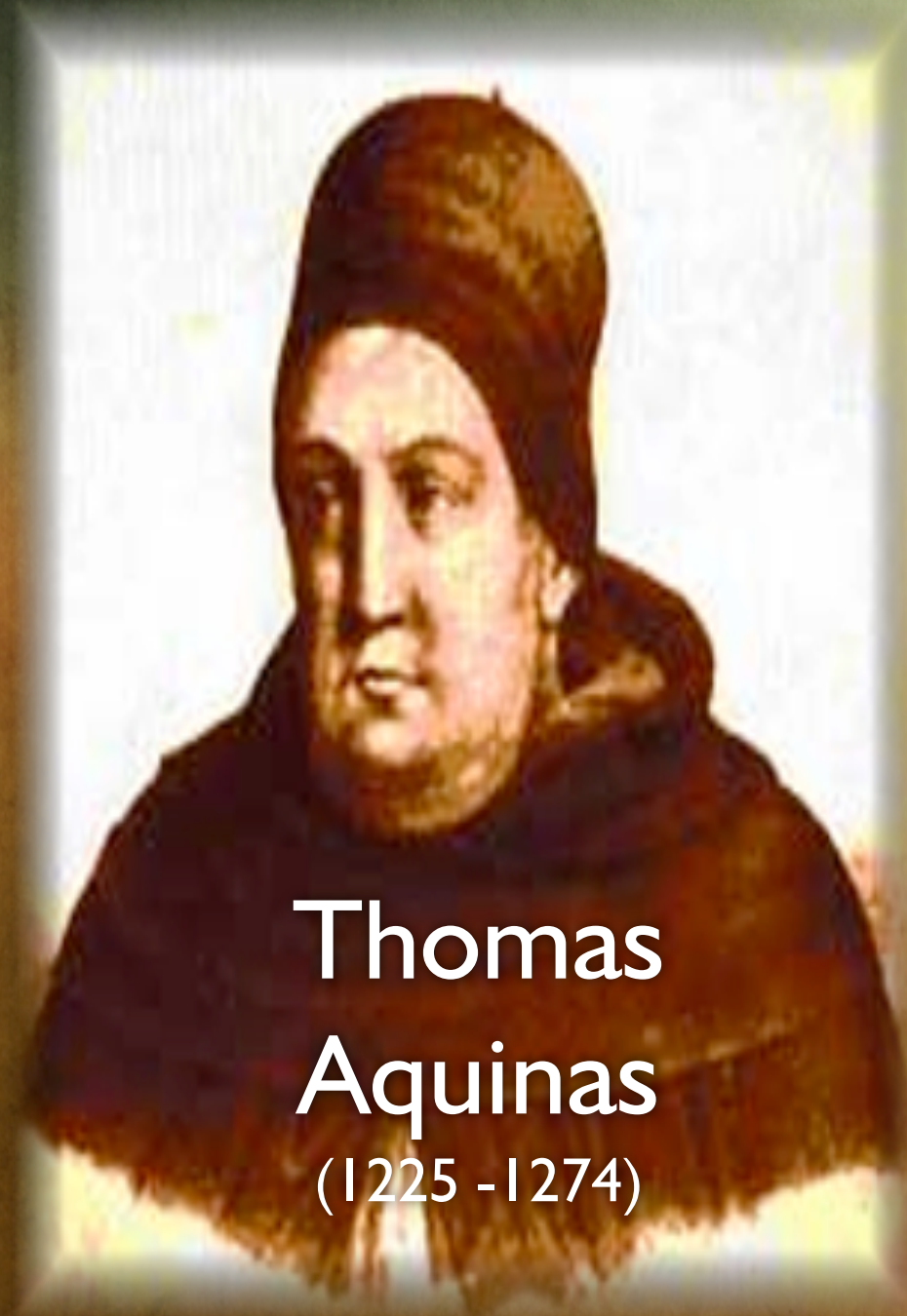
John Chrysostom (345-407):

"Just as the Jews are commanded to praise God with all musical instruments so we are commanded to praise him with all our members—the eye, the tongue, ear, the hand.

These instruments were then allowed because of the weakness of the people, to train them to love and harmony" (Comments on Psalm 150)..

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



**Thomas
Aquinas**
(1225 -1274)

Thomas Aquinas (1225 -1274)

"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)

“... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips . . .”

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



John Calvin

John 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. . . ."

(Commentary on Psalms 33)

“... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips ...”

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



John Calvin

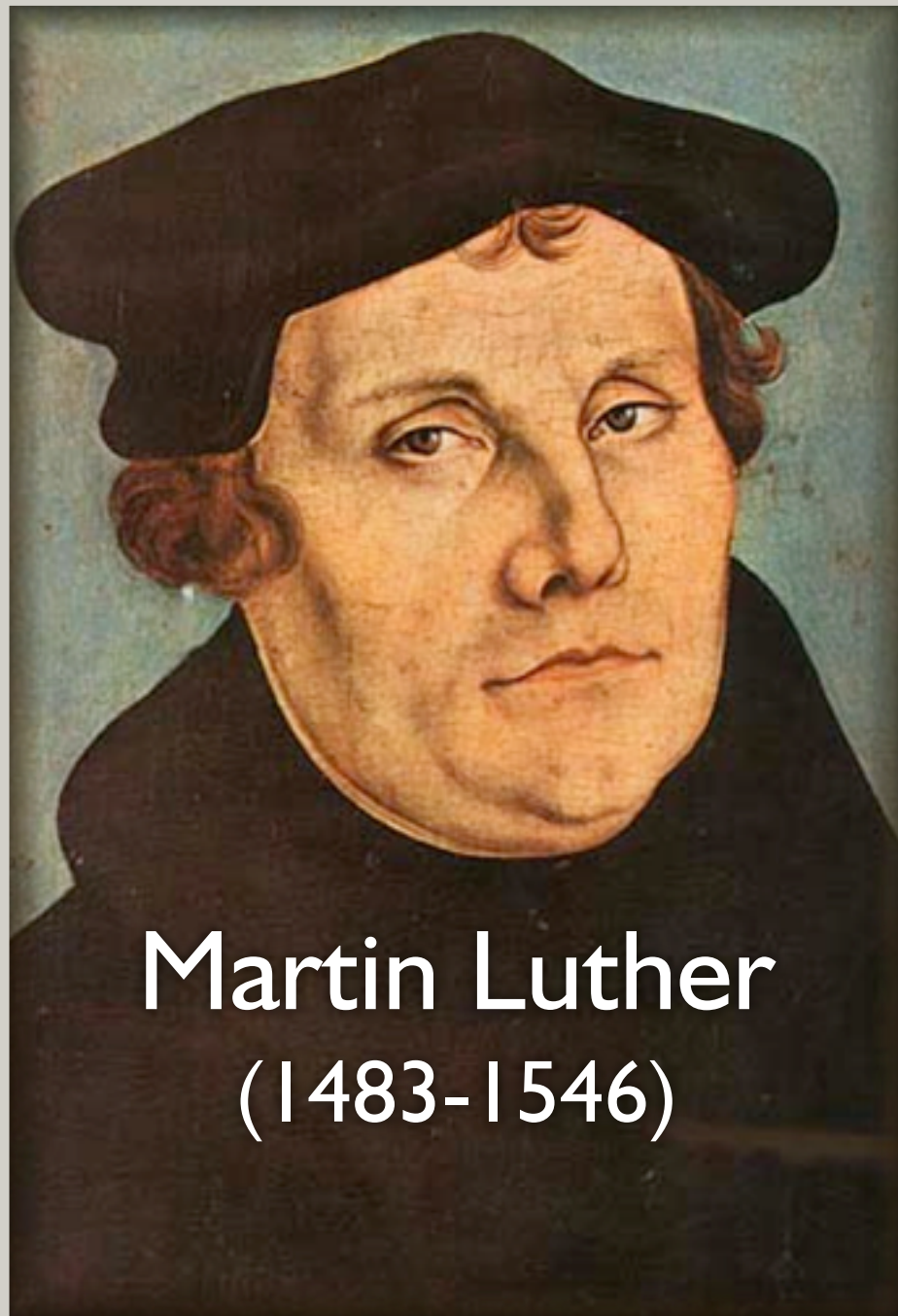
John Calvin

“... 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?”

(Commentary on Psalms 33)

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



Martin Luther
(1483-1546)

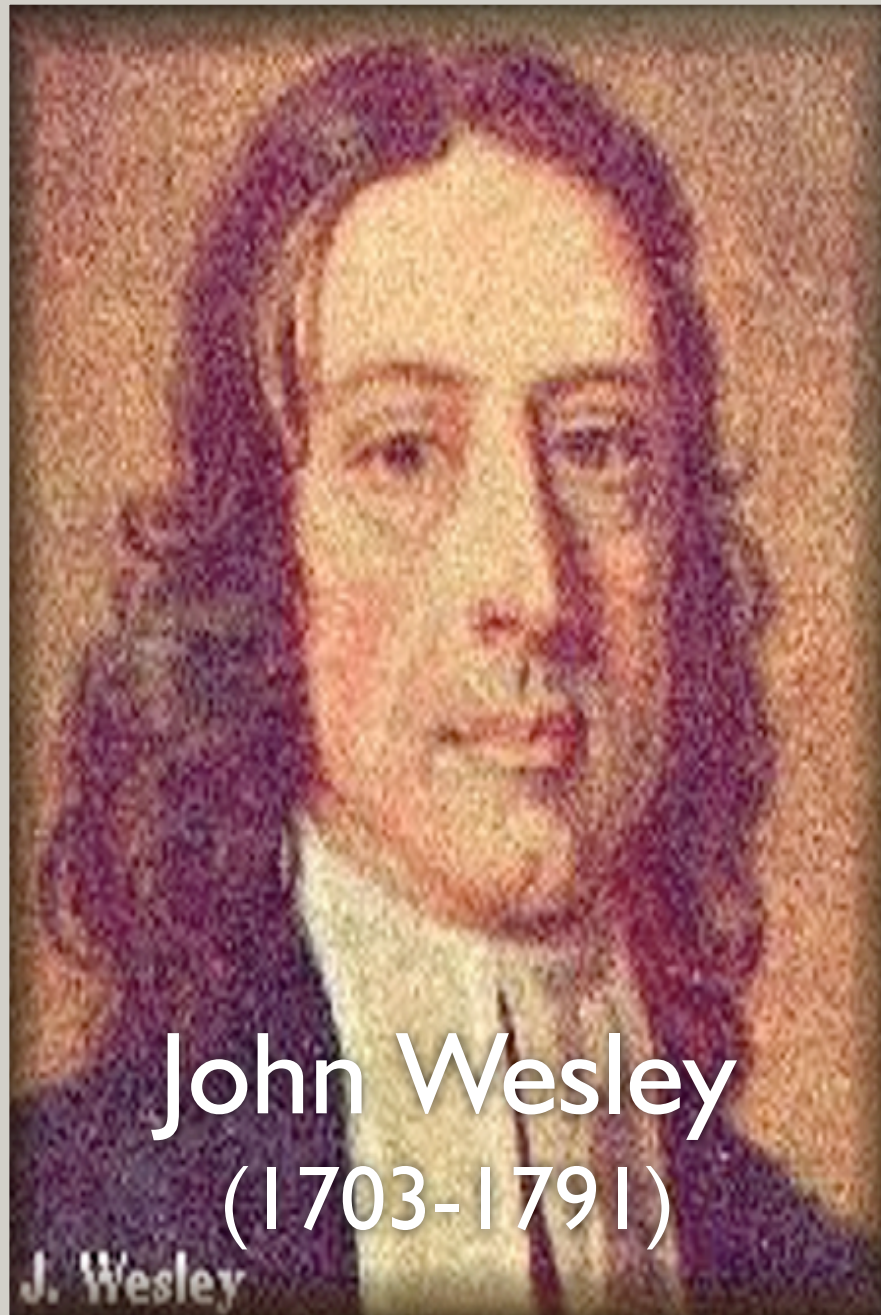
Martin Luther
(1483-1546)

"The organ in the worship
Is the insignia of Baal..
The Roman Catholic
borrowed it from the
Jews."

(Martin Luther, McClintock & Strong's
Encyclopedia Volume VI, page 762)

"... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips ..."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



John Wesley
(1703-1791)

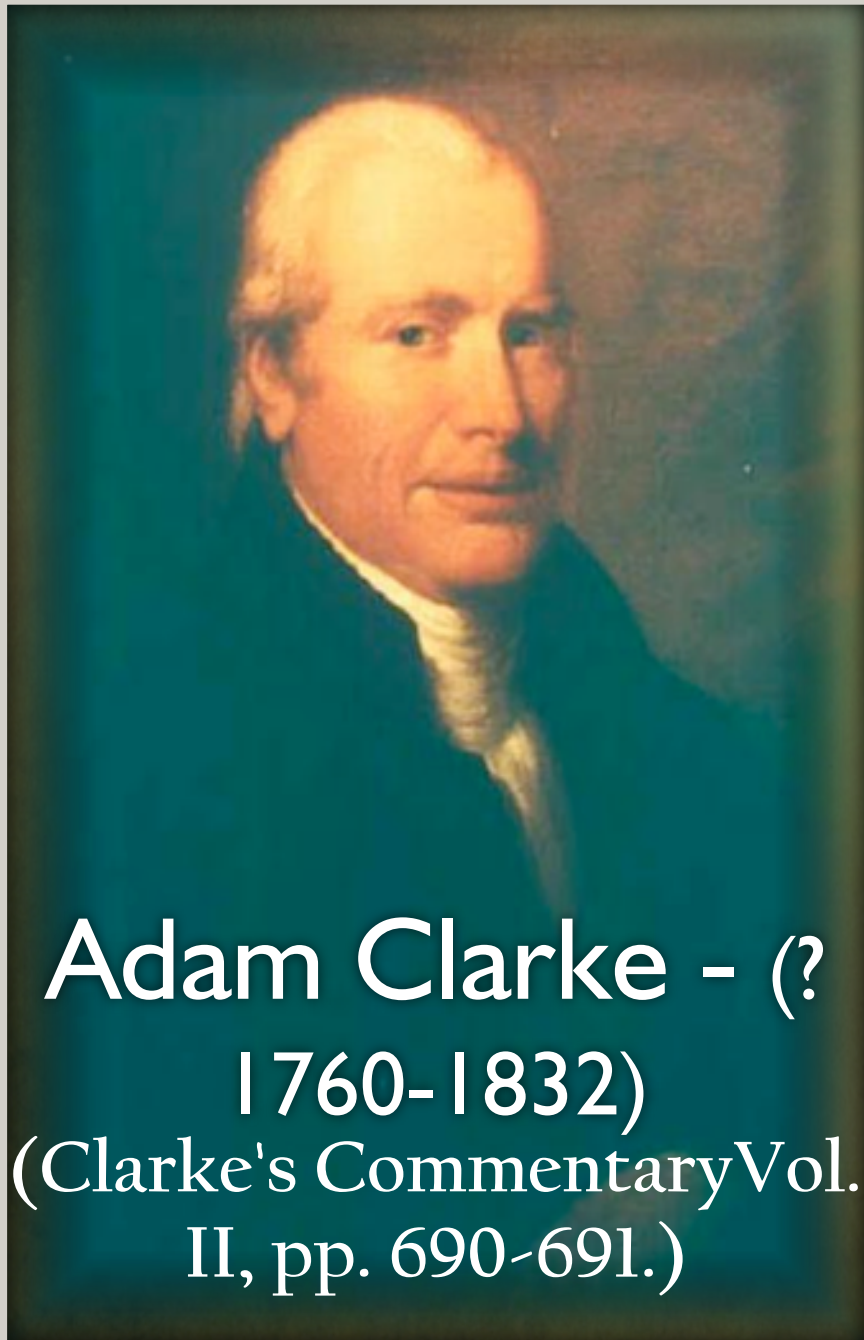
John Wesley
(1703-1791)

"I have no objection to instruments of music in our worship, provided they are neither seen nor heard."

(founder of Methodism)

"... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips . . ."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



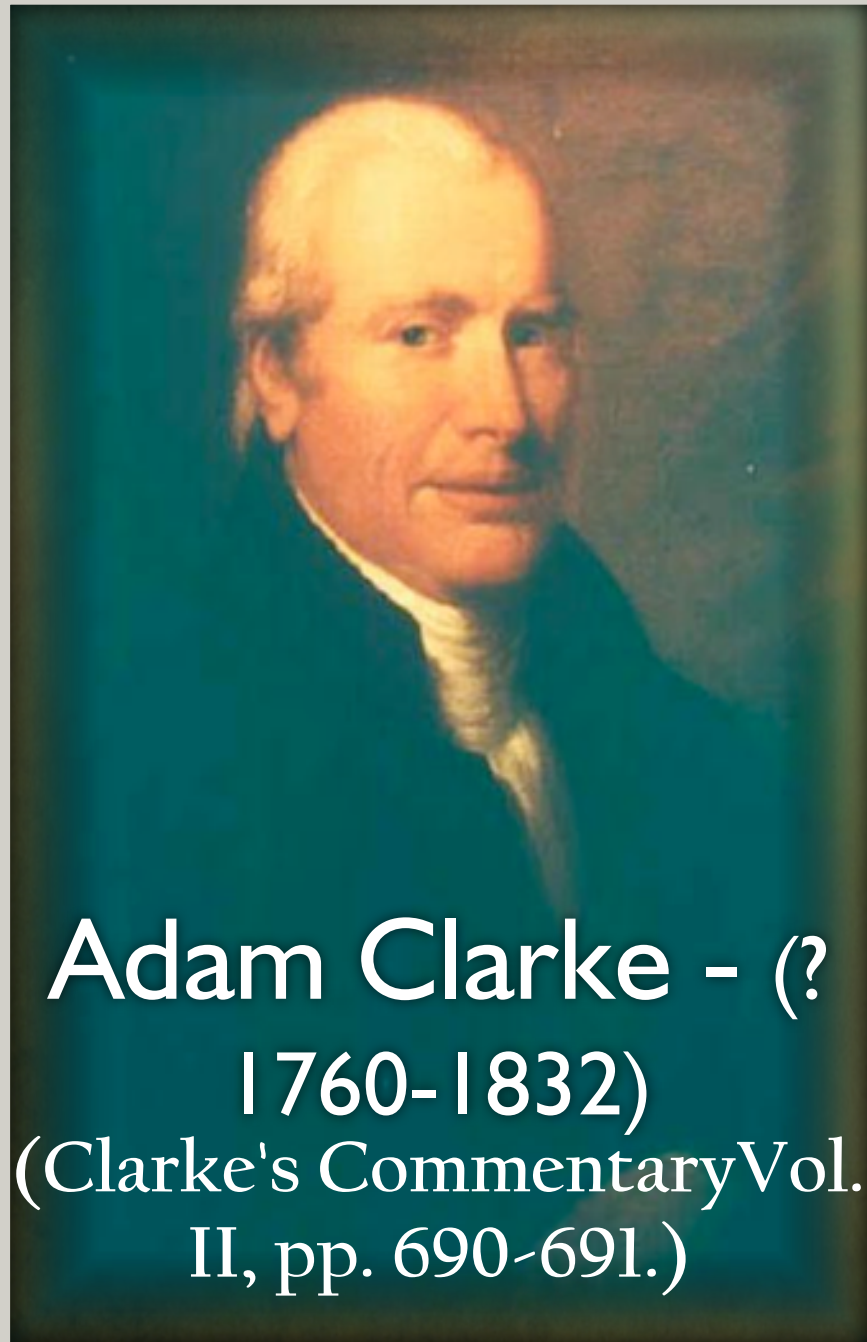
**Adam Clarke - (?
1760-1832)**
(Clarke's Commentary Vol.
II, pp. 690-691.)

Adam Clarke

"But were it even evident, . . . that instruments of music were prescribed by divine authority under the law, could this be adduced with any semblance of reason, that they ought to be used in Christian worship? No; the whole spirit, soul, and genius of the Christian religion are against this; and those who know the Church of God best, and what constitutes its genuine spiritual state. . .

"... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips ..."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



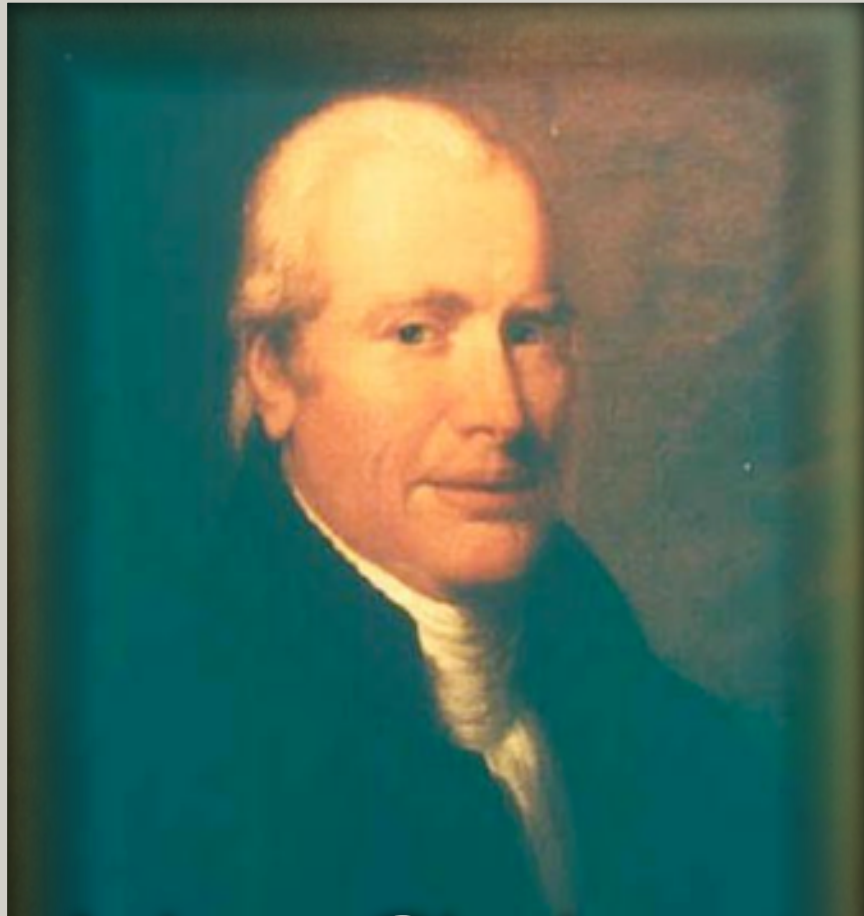
**Adam Clarke - (?
1760-1832)**
(Clarke's Commentary Vol.
II, pp. 690-691.)

Adam Clarke

... know that these things have been introduced as a substitute for the life and power of religion; and that where they prevail most, there is least of the power of Christianity. Away with such portentous baubles from the worship of that infinite Spirit who requires His followers to worship Him in spirit and truth, for to no such worship are these instruments friendly."

"... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips . . ."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



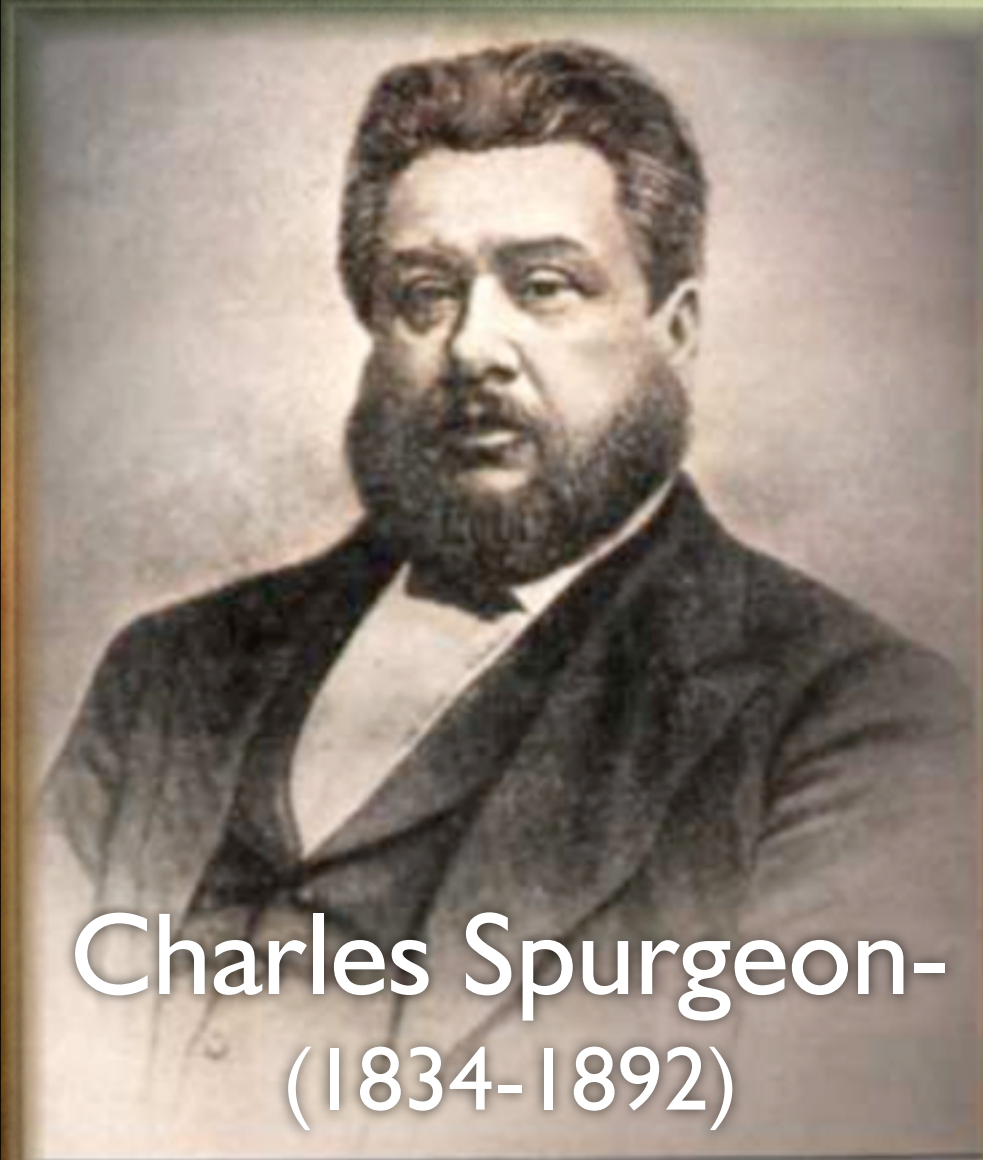
**Adam Clarke - (?
1760-1832)**
(Clarke's Commentary Vol.
II, pp. 690-691.)

Adam Clarke

"I am an old man, and I here declare that I never knew them to be productive of any good in the worship of God, and have reason to believe that they are productive of much evil. Music as a science I esteem and admire, but instrumental music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music, and I here register my protest against all such corruption of the worship of the author of Christianity . . ."

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



Charles Spurgeon-
(1834-1892)

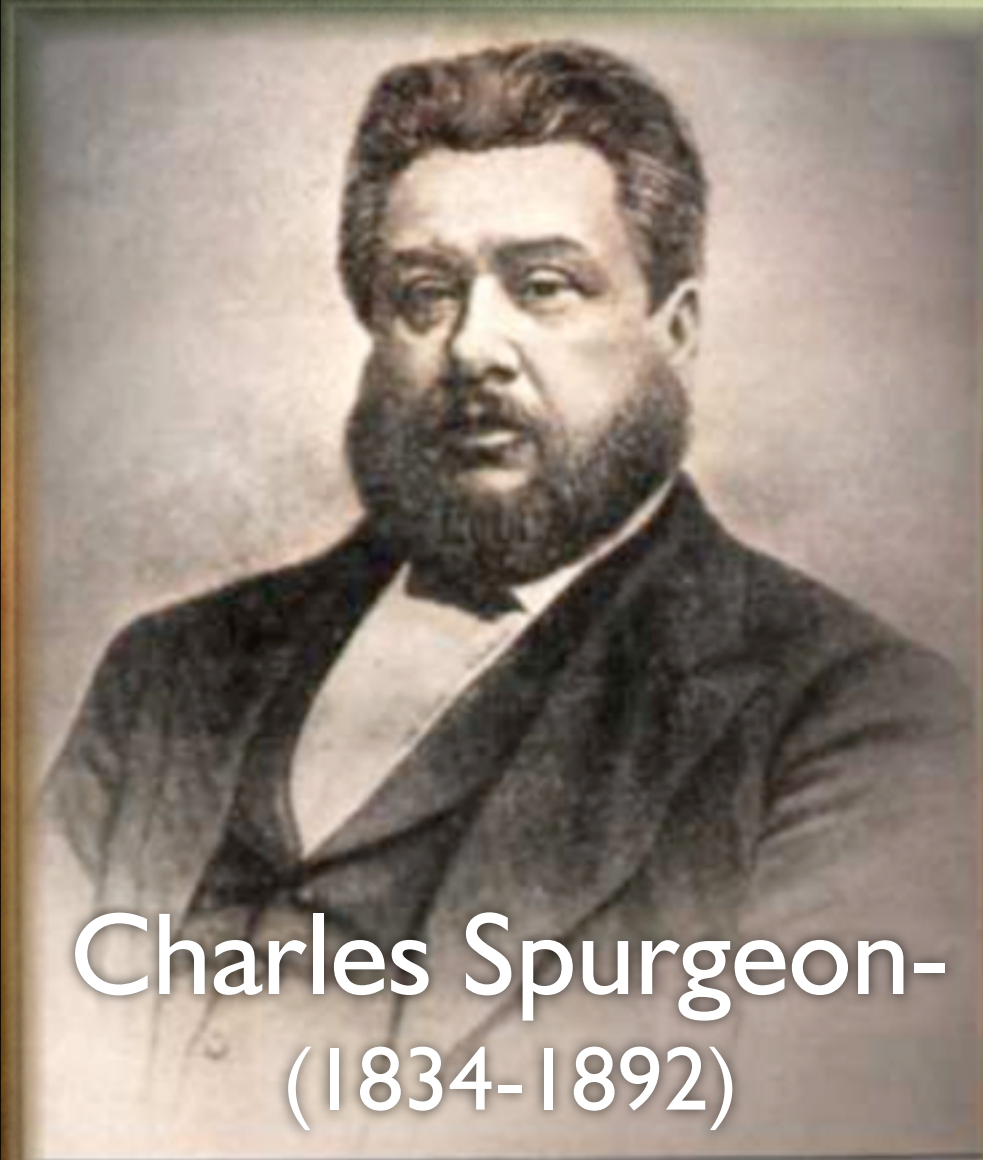
C.H. Spurgeon

Charles Spurgeon -

"David appears to have had a peculiarly tender remembrance of the singing of the pilgrims, and assuredly it is the most delightful part of worship and that which comes nearest to the adoration of heaven. What a degradation to supplant the intelligent song of the whole congregation by the theatrical prettiness of a quartet, bellows, and pipes. We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it..."

"... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The 'Fruit of Our Lips' ..."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY



Charles Spurgeon-
(1834-1892)

C.H. Spurgeon

Charles Spurgeon -

... 'Praise the Lord with harp.' Israel was at school, and used childish things to help her to learn; but in these days when Jesus gives us spiritual food, one can make melody without strings and pipes... We do not need them. That would hinder rather than help our praise. Sing unto him. This is the sweetest and best music. No instrument is like the human voice." (Charles Spurgeon (Baptist), Commentary on Psalm 42.)

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY

QUESTION?

WHAT IS THE
RELEVANCE
OF THE
HISTORICAL
RECORD IN
RELATION TO
THIS
SUBJECT ?

- ◆ FACT: – NO record of instruments prior to 666 A.D.
- ◆ FACT: The prevalent view of the reformers was that I.M. is wrong.
- ◆ If the NT church used I.M. with the approval of the apostles – history would tell a different story!!

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

THE INTERESTING TESTIMONY OF HISTORY

QUESTION?

WHAT IS THE
RELEVANCE

OF THE
HISTORICAL
RECORD IN
RELATION TO
THIS
SUBJECT ?

- ◆ Who authorized I.M. music?
- ◆ We are not that ODD / We want to do what God has said!

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

WHY WE DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN OUR WORSHIP TO GOD



Singing without
mechanical
accompaniment
is right - to
which everyone
will agree!

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

WHY WE DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN OUR WORSHIP TO GOD

Singing without
an instrument
can be done by
faith -

2 Cor 5:7;

Rom 10:17;

Jude 3



"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

WHY WE DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN OUR WORSHIP TO GOD



History confirms
that Mechanical
instruments were
NOT used in the NT
church - and
condemned when
introduced.

"...The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips..."

WHY WE DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN OUR WORSHIP TO GOD

None of the
arguments
proposed to
defend I.M. hold
up when
examined by the
Bible!



“... The Sacrifice of Praise To God, That Is The Fruit of Our Lips ...”

WHY WE DO NOT USE MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN OUR WORSHIP TO GOD

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared January 30–February 1, 2014

Preached February 2, 2014

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Colossians 3:12-17 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.



Colossians 3:12-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.



Colossians 3:12-17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

