

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Ms. Dannels, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin  
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

October 17, 2021

Answering Common Arguments Used for  
Having Instrumental Music in Worship

By Derek Long

The New Testament speaks about music in worship to God in several places. Every passage which discusses music in worship to God being offered by saints on earth in the New Testament speak of it as singing and say nothing about mechanical instruments of music being used (Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; James 5:13). God expects us to do only those things which He authorizes us to do in worship to Him (Colossians 3:17). Offering something as worship to God which He has not commanded brings God's condemnation (Leviticus 10:1-3). When we teach against the use of mechanical instruments in worship today, people may counter with certain arguments. In the rest of the article, we want to attempt to give an answer to some of these arguments which are sometimes made.

Argument #1 - "The Old Testament speaks about people worshipping God with instrumental music."

The basic problem with this argument is it fails to take into consideration the fact the Law of Moses has been removed (Romans 7:1-4; Ephesians 2:14-17; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 10:9). Galatians 5:2-3 points out one cannot keep one part of the Law of Moses without going back and keeping the whole law. People want to bring over the instrumental music from the Old Testament worship but don't want to bring over things like animal sacrifices, etc. Galatians 5:4 points out those who go back to keeping the Law of Moses are cut off from Christ and fall from grace. The Old Testament is not the law we live

under today and so we cannot turn to it to authorize how we are going to worship God today.

Argument #2 - "The Psalms were not part of the Law which was taken away."

Jesus classified the Psalms as part of the Law (John 10:34 with Psalm 82:6; John 15:25 with Psalm 35:19 and Psalm 69:4). Jesus also spoke of the Psalms as having been fulfilled by Him (Luke 24:44). If one is going to say the fact instruments are mentioned in the Psalms means we should use them in worship to God today, we would be forced to do the other things spoken of in the Psalms which were part of the Old Covenant.

Argument #3 - "Instruments will be used in heaven."

One problem with the above argument is it fails to recognize heaven is not a physical realm where physical instruments of music will exist. Revelation 14:2, which speaks of harpists playing their harps, is found in a context of figurative language and should not be interpreted literally. Another problem with the above argument is it fails to recognize there are differences between how things are done on earth and how things are done in heaven. Matthew 22:30 points out marriage will not exist in heaven. If one is going to argue we should use instruments because they are found in heaven, wouldn't one need to argue against marriage because it will not exist in heaven? Yet clearly Scripture authorizes marrying upon this earth (1 Timothy 4:2). The point is just because something exists in heaven does not mean such is what God wants us to be doing now upon the earth.

Argument #4 - "The words 'psalms' or 'making melody' necessarily infer the use of mechanical instrumental music."

Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 speak of using psalms in our worship to God under the New Covenant. Certain Old Testament psalms do mention the use of mechanical instruments (Psalm 150:3-5). If we are going to say mechanical instruments of music in worship are authorized because the psalms mention them, we would have to authorize animal sacrifices (Psalm 66:13-15) and the observance of the Old Testament religious festivals like the new moon (Psalm 81:1-4). Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 specify what it is we are to do with the "psalms." Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians

3:16 describes us as "speaking," "singing," and "making melody in your heart." Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 do not teach us to play the psalms upon an instrument.

Ephesians 5:19 speaks about us "making melody." It is sometimes argued the word translated "making melody" means "to sing with an instrument." The major English translations do not translate the term in this manner though. Psalm 98:5 has a similar type of construction when it says, "Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm" (NKJV). The instrument had to be supplied in the passage. If "making melody" in Ephesians 5:19 teaches us to sing with an instrument, the instrument to be used is specified in the text. The instrument used as we sing in worship to God under the New Covenant is the "heart." Another thing to consider is that all Christians are required to do whatever is meant by the term "making melody." If "making melody" means singing with an instrument, then every person would have to sing with an instrument. Therefore, the practice of a few playing for the rest of those gathered would not fit this passage if such is what the passage really taught. However, the passage is teaching us not to pluck a mechanical instrument of music but instead to pluck the strings of our heart.