



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC!!!

The New Testament does not say it is a sin to use instrumental music in worship service. However, it also doesn't say it is a sin to do many of the things which are not appropriate to do in a worship service.

If your TRUTH BASIS is whatever you want to do or whatever you can get away with, then instrumental music and a lot of other things are fair game.

The question is, is instrumental music compatible with the TRUTH BASIS of churches of Christ? The 12,311 locally autonomous US churches of Christ do not have a creed book, national organization, nor a Pope to make decisions for us. However, we do have a unifying motto, and it is "Speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent". It is literally a re-statement of Revelation 22:18-19 so it is scriptural.

It says the New Testament settles our religious issues, leaving some non-salvation issues subject to interpretation. In other words, religion and the belief in God and Jesus are the same today as they were in the first century.

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TRUTH BASIS

On recently visiting a monastery in Greece (photo below), we found the book "The Way" which explains the Greek Orthodox point of view. As can be seen on the graphic on page 4. the Greek Orthodox consider themselves to be the one true church from the day of Pentecost until now. In their perspective, in 1054 the Roman Catholics split off and later some protestant heretic groups were formed.



In the book Protopresbyter Friar George D. Metallinos states that truth is defined by what the Bible says and what was decided in the 9 Synods or conferences between the years 325 A.D. and the year 1453 A.D. This would be their TRUTH BASIS. In our point of view, they believe what the Bible says, as modified or supplemented by their synods and councils.

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A first question to answer is whether music is worship or is it a method to facilitate worship. The answer would say whether the method of music is settled by the New Testament or it is subject to our interpretation. Methods are not the same, but sometimes deciding what is religion and what is a method to support religion requires a careful study.

If instrumental music is worship for God it would be analyzed one way, if it is simply a method it would be analyzed another way. Consider the switch from candles to electric lights, standing to sitting on pews, talking loudly to sound systems, being hot or cold to AC systems and walking to driving to missionary points. Each of these could qualify as a method to facilitate the spread of the gospel and are subject to updating.

Does the Bible qualify instrumental music as a means of worship to God? The 2 Chron. 29:25-26 use of cymbals, harps, trumpets and lyres describes the use of instruments of music as worship to God. God certainly recognized the use of instrumental music as worship, so it is reasonable that we should also.

It would be interesting to see anyone who would not say that a dominant organ in an assembly would be worship to God. In many churches, the organ doesn't assist in the singing, it replaces the singing, or at least drowns it out. The other extreme, is a song leader who quietly listens to a pitch pipe instrument make a single note before a song, but does not use it during the singing. It would reasonably qualify as being a method to facilitate the instructed singing. Between the two scenarios you have an infinite variety of pianos, guitars, bands, and symphonies.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SOMETHING: Acts 2:38 says repent and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins. If you expect to go to heaven, it would be very reasonable to be in compliance with that specific teaching. Similarly, Ephesians 5:19 says "speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, sing and make melody with your heart to the Lord". This scripture gives a clear instruction as to what to do. Clearly, something other than instrumental music is instructed to be done.

IF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IS WORSHIP FOR GOD IT WOULD BE ANALYZED ONE WAY, IF IT IS SIMPLY A METHOD IT WOULD BE ANALYZED ANOTHER WAY.

THINGS WHICH ARE SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED:

The New Testament never says "don't use instrumental music" so there is no specific prohibition. However, Galatians 5:4 specifically says that if you try to be justified by the old law you will fall from grace. For the faint hearted that means you will not go to heaven in that state. Instrumental music is an activity which was authorized in the Old Testament. Bringing it forward to the New Testament is what this is talking about. A prime supporting logic of instrumental music is that limited use of the harp, lyre, and flute was instructed in the Old Law. (2 Chron. 29:25-26 use of cymbals, harps, trumpets and lyres) As instruments of music were in the Old Law and not authorized in the New Testament, they would fall under the admonition of Gal. 5:4.

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EXISTING BUT NOT USED ACTS OF WORSHIP: Instrumental music is in a special class with a number of other potential acts of worship which were readily available and simply not used. The manner of music instructed was singing (Ephesians 5:19), so the conclusion one would have to reach is that God and Jesus wanted to hear singing. Limited use of very specific instruments were instructed in the Old Law, so it would not be reasonable to suggest that it had not occurred to God. Turns out there are a lot of other things done in the Old Law which are not done in the New Testament. Regular blood sacrifices as a start.

That instrumental music was not used in the first century is demonstrated by the fact that the use of instrumental music was formally accepted into the Roman Catholic Church by Pope Vitalian in 667 A.D. One would presume some local use or a while before, but it would reinforce the understanding that instrumental music was not used in the early church. The competitive Greek Orthodox Church remains non-instrumental to this day.

In summary, singing and instrumental music are both considered acts of worship. Our instruction from the New Testament is purely singing. Though God and Jesus knew of instruments as demonstrated by their limited use under the Old Law, we are specifically instructed to abstain from trying to be justified by the Old Law.

If your TRUTH BASIS is to follow what God's New Testament says, you will not use instrumental music in worship services.



IF YOUR TRUTH BASIS IS FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD'S NEW TESTAMENT, YOU WILL NOT USE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP SERVICES





TRUTH BASIS- P. 2

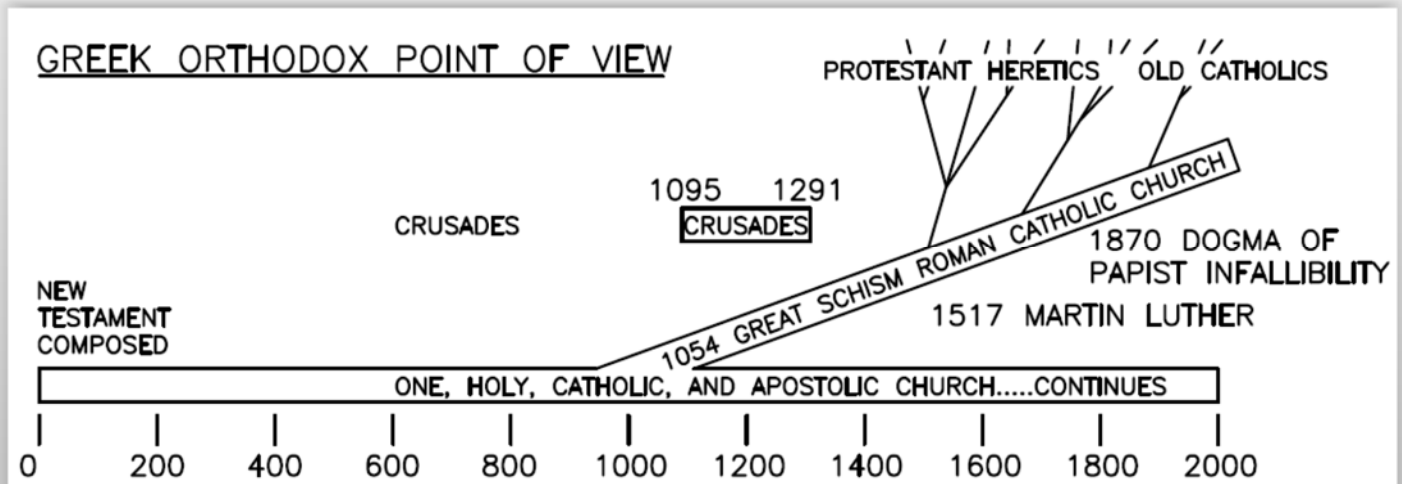
The Roman Catholics have a similar TRUTH BASIS in that they would understand they are the continuous church from the day of Pentecost, but that the Greek Orthodox Church split off from them somewhere between A.D. 606 (when they appointed their first Pope) and A.D. 1054 (when they excommunicated each other).

**NO ONE SAYS THEY ARE SMARTER THAN GOD!
YOU MUST USE A DIFFERENT RATIONAL TO OVER-RIDE GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS**

They believe in the ruling of the councils and

mented by the latest Methodist Council.

It is important to note that no one says that they are smarter than God or that they know what to do better than God. Their focus would be on that we are in a different time, our conditions are different or our resources are different than when the New Testament was written. Rather than focusing on submission to God's word, you focus on how much good you can do for God (in your perception) if you do things a little differently.



synods from 325 A.D. and 1054 A.D., but then generally switched to what the Pope says from his throne (ex-officio). In other words they believe what the Bible says as modified or supplemented by their councils, synods, and the Pope.

On visiting a Methodist church priest when in high school and suggesting to him that they were not following the New Testament, he coolly said that "As God improved the Old Testament with the New Testament, the Methodist Church Council improves on the New Testament". Clearly their TRUTH BASIS was whatever the Bible says as is modified or supple-

When you are trying to be more conventional and socially acceptable with your religion, remember that first century Christianity was anything but socially acceptable or conventional. When you try to get into the broad path of being more conventional, you need to go back and read Matthew 7:13-14. Our goal is not to be popular or most conventional.

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HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR TRUTH BASIS:

You are 100% free to choose any TRUTH BASIS indicated, or any other. You can simply make one up. You can live your life in accordance with your selected TRUTH BASIS and go to judgment day based upon it.

One thing to consider is that judgment day is apparently "judgment day" rather than sentencing day. The members of the synods, councils, the Pope, or your preacher will not be the judge on judgment day. They will not even be there. God will be your judge, and Jesus Christ will be your advocate. We are absolutely sure that if you live your life in accordance with God's and Jesus's New Testament, God and Jesus will welcome you into heaven.

If you tell God and Jesus that instead of following their New Testament, you chose to follow the teaching of a synod, council, Pope, or your preacher, it is for sure you have lost the sureness of eternal salvation. You are free to do this, and it is your gamble.

Our concern is that if a literate person with a personal Bible (all of us) defy God on a single point on what they could be expected to understand, it is likely a salvation issue.

Again, God allows you to make the choice of how you are going to respond.

POST SCRIPT

Today on the radio they said the Pope was:

1. Reducing the complication of annulling marriages from where it could take up to 10 years at great expense to where it could be done in 45 days at no expense, and
2. Making it easier for a priest to absolve someone from the sin of abortion.

What was particularly interesting was that the reason he give for it was because of the great mercy of God. It seemed particularly timely that this would have been said exactly when we were saying that "NO ONE SAYS THEY ARE SMARTER THAN GOD! YOU MUST USE A DIFFERENT RATIONAL TO OVERRIDE GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS".

"...devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching." (1 Tim. 4:13)

The pages of my Bible are underlined and highlighted with notes and references and a few smudges here and there. Some of the pages are getting loose. That's not a bad thing. But I tend to see the same message that I read the last time, I reconfirm what I already know. That's the reason I listen carefully when others read the Bible aloud.

There is something dynamic about hearing a different voice, a new tone and inflection. Listening often brings fresh insight. Recently as I was listening to the reading of Mark 8, I had a new thought. Why did it take two miracles for Jesus to heal the blind man? Was he teaching the blind man or the people who brought him to Jesus a lesson? Or maybe there is a message for me. I'm still pondering...

For hundreds of years people did not have the privilege of reading the Bible. Literacy was very limited and Bibles were scarce. We have such an abundance of Bibles that we tend to take it all for granted.

Consider the advantage of using both your eyes and ears to internalize the message. Read the text aloud instead of using only your eyes. Try listening to your chapter on your cell phone. Be sure and come for our public readings of Scripture one Sunday night of the month.

I claim the verse in Revelation that offers a blessing for the reading of God's Word. (Rev. 1:3) That specific blessing may have been intended for the book of Revelation but I think we can generalize that there is a great benefit and blessing for those who read and listen to God's Word. Listen for something new!

Elizabeth Brown

WHY I LISTEN



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION: EVOLUTION DISPROVEN

Creation of species cannot be proven. It supposedly happened millions of years ago by zero I.Q. things which couldn't write or document it. We can theorize that it happened, we can find facts compatible with it, but it cannot be proven.

In the same sense, it cannot actually be disproven. If you come up with any fanciful theory of what happened a long time ago, it logically cannot be disproven. You can logically only determine facts which discount the possibility of it. As an example, if you teach that the earth was populated by little green Martians, we cannot prove you wrong. We just don't have to believe you.

There is a problem with the little green Martians if you say something specific about them which can be checked out. For instance, if you say the little green Martians say the world is flat, you can learn that the world is not flat and you functionally disprove that group of Martians.

Judeo Christianity is the only religion which actually does this. It makes scientific prophecies such as paths of the seas, singing of the stars, springs of the seas, rain water cycles, and existence of atoms which could not have been known by the human writers (For information see: [http://thearray.org/The Christian Array/3.13 Scientific Statements In The Bible](http://thearray.org/The_Christian_Array/3.13_Scientific_Statements_In_The_Bible)). Not only does the Bible make scientific statements, it does not include contemporary myths. The first U.S. president, George Washington, died because this doctors were following the contemporary myth that bleeding could get rid of the sickness. He was bled to death. If the Bible has been written by his contemporaries, it would have included that myth.

Now with that background, back to evolution. Evolution has no supporting proofs, only observations compatible with evolution (or something else). Consider that you observe that your car

tire is round on the top, is round on the front, and is round on the rear portions. It could be reasonable to conclude that it is round on the bottom also. Those are compatible observations. However, you may still have a flat tire. Your compatible observations are necessary for belief, but are not proof. You can have 100 supporting observations, but one disproof will prove it is wrong.

As evolution effectively became a religion when Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species" on 11/24/1859, disproving it would require a logical prophecy from it which Mr. Darwin could not have known, and which has subsequently been determined to be false. Instead of the 2,000-4,000 years for this to happen like the Bible, we have a relatively short window of 156 years. However, a lot has happened in the last 156 years.

A basic tenet of atheistic evolution is that it took millions or billions of years to happen. It is sort of like the little green Martians, if it happened millions or billions of years ago, how can you disprove it. Turns out Charles has had a little help. All the other apostles of evolution figured out that at the rate space dust was landing on the Earth and Moon, it would be 20' to 30' deep now. On Earth you wouldn't notice because it is simply assimilated into the geography much more quickly than it falls. On the Moon it would just lie there as a 20'-30' layer of space dust.

Here's where being an old person becomes beneficial. Having watched TV (all 3 channels) in the 1950s right before the space race and the internet, I saw the prediction on live TV.



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION: EVOLUTION DISPROVEN P. 2

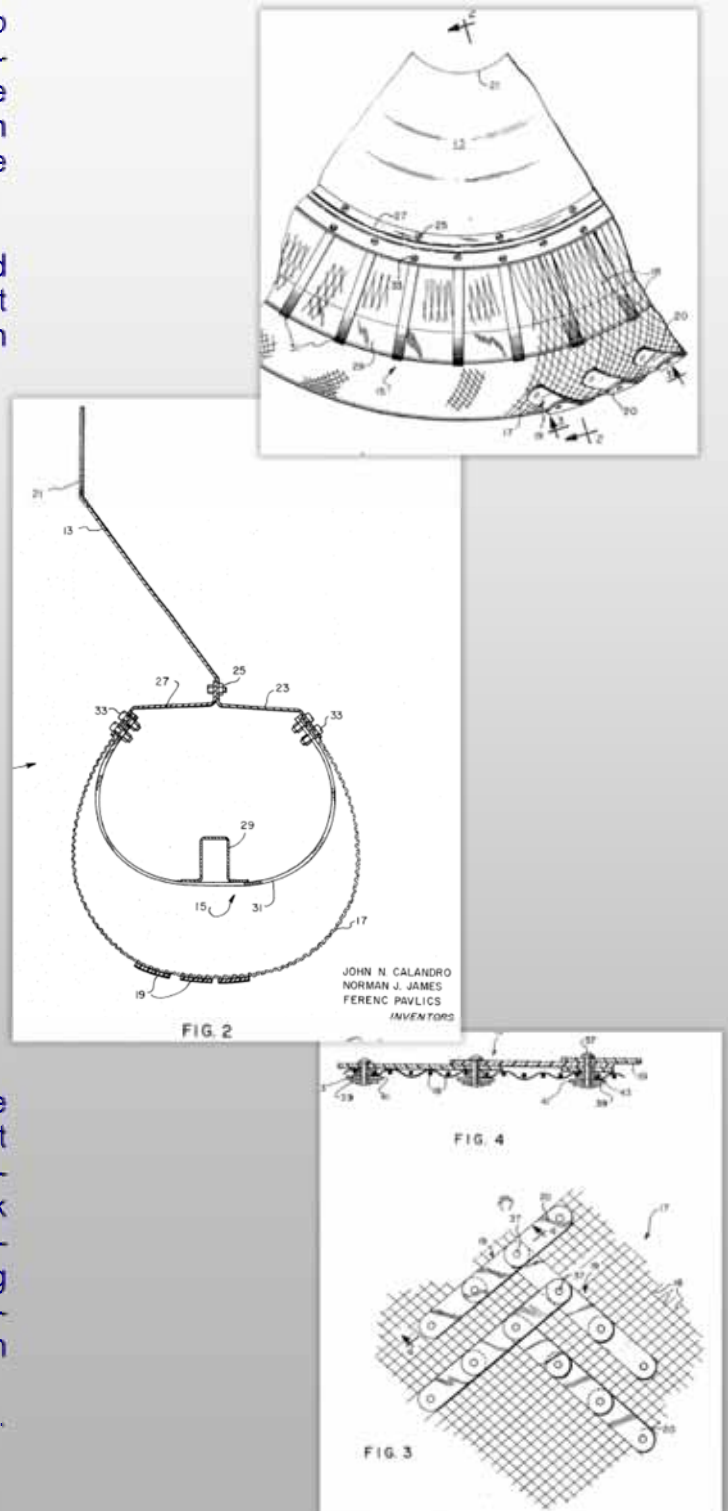
First was the live statement that when we get to the Moon the dust will be 20'-30' thick. Secondly they were manufacturing and testing the vehicles to deal with the thick layer of dust in very low gravity. They were tall tires made with a soft mesh to not sink into the dust.

Before they sent a man to the Moon, they had hit it with some rockets and knew it was not true. They made small tired vehicles. When Neil Armstrong landed on the Moon on July 20, 1969, his footprint was barely 1/2" deep.

The prophecy of enough time to allow for the fictitious evolution was Moon dust 20'-30' deep. The subsequent empirical evidence was 1/2". Clearly the case of an implied prophecy which turned out not to be true.

Now the bad news. You have to take my word for it. It was before the internet, so you can't Google it. The atheistic evolutionists are certainly not going to advertise it in books you can buy. You cannot go back and watch the TV broadcast. The closest thing I can find as proof is the patent no. 3,568,748 for Resilient Wheel which was issued to NASA for generally the tire being described, and the 3 figures on this page are from that patent. It was formally applied for on February 20, 1969 just months before the Moon launch, and had spent some time in paperwork and R&D before the patent was actually filed. By the time it was filed, it had already been determined otherwise that the Moon dust was not 20'-30' thick and so it was not necessary. There are no references to Moon dust thickness in the resulting patent, but as patent applications get you raises in government service, the watered-down application was obviously still filed.

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.





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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

- 8/9-13/15** Area Wide Youth Lectureship, Southside Church of Christ (See p. 5)
- 10/4-6/15** OC Lectureship, see page 8 for more information
- 10/24/15** Area Wide Seminar “How to Evangelize your Community, 8:45 to 2:00
Marysville Church of Christ, Marysville KS, See page 9
- 11/14/15** OKC / OC Area Wide Elder’s Workshop (Note date change)
Hosted by Southwest Church of Christ, OKC, See page 10
- 8/16** Houston Area Wide Campaign for Christ
- 2nd Tues.** Houston Preacher’s Luncheon, confirm with Dale Foster at
dalefoster@gmail.com for address.

YAHOO GROUP

HoustonCofC is a Yahoo group hosted by Steve Sandifer [steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net] for the purpose of communicating Houston area news among the brethren. It is open to any member of the church at no cost.

The Christian Array E-Magazine

This e-magazine is sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote scriptural teachings, area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this e-magazine, send an e-mail to bbaugh@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate it if you would:

1. forward the church member e-mail addresses which you have,
2. send the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have, and
3. give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

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