

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Instrumental Perspectives

June 4, 2017

Issue 314

Nearly every time I meet someone who is not a member of churches of Christ and they know I am a preacher, they ask about our acapella worship. Even though there are a few other groups that do not use instruments in worship, churches of Christ are known for this practice. In this article I will highlight a few of the most common statements I hear from those who defend instrumental music in worship.

(1). *"The Bible doesn't say we can't use instruments to worship God."* This is true. There is no "Thou shalt not..." concerning this topic...but there doesn't have to be. When God commands us to do some-

thing, we cannot stray from those instructions and then presume to be pleasing Him. We have been commanded to sing praises to God. The early church—under direct apostolic leadership—did not use instruments in worship. The commands and patterns have been set; therefore, we cannot construct our own patterns.

(2). *"God knows my heart. If my intentions are good, He will be pleased."* God does in fact know your heart. He also gave us instructions on how to live our lives as individual Christians and collectively as a body of believers. How can you say your heart is in the right place when you intentionally go

outside the commands of Scripture?

(3). *"Instrumental music reaches lost people. It appeals to them. They will want to attend our services if we use them."* If that's true, then instrumental music is just a gimmick to attract a crowd. Jesus told His disciples to go to all the world with the gospel, not gimmicks. The good news of Jesus is the power of God to change lives (Rom. 1:16). A bold proclamation of the gospel is what mankind needs. They already have concerts, self-help books, and other entertainment to make them feel better. What they don't have is salvation.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- John Hayes spent Monday night in Skyline Medical Center with a mild case of pneumonia. Thank you for all of your prayers and thoughts.
- Tonight's lesson will be "How To Stop Backsliding."
- Becky Rose's sister, Tanya Parker, passed away last week. Her funeral was last Saturday.
- Continue to remember Beverly Nicholson, Haley Rector, and Mildred Walker.

This Morning's Sermon: "Christian" Hillcrest Nursing Home Worship Today At 2:30

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: E. Walker

Pray: John Hayes

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Hovis, Reed

Pray: Garrett

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

Romans 8:37
“But in all things we
overwhelmingly conquer
through Him who loved us.”

*The Bible contains 1189 chapters. The O.T. has
929 chapters. The N.T. has 260 chapters.*

*The longest chapter is Psalm 119; the shortest
chapter is Psalm 117.*

*“God helps those who help themselves” and
“Cleanliness is next to godliness” are not in the
Bible, but were said by Benjamin Franklin and
Francis Bacon, respectively.*

When You Hear A Sermon

There is no question that attention spans have shrunk over the years. Once upon a time, political candidates would give hours-long speeches to hundreds of people who would stand the entire time. But American culture has gotten quicker. Meals are prepared quicker, houses are built quicker, and information is delivered quicker. This creates a challenge for the preacher since everyone who hears a sermon lives in this fast-paced culture. Can a preacher hold the attention of the congregation for over 30 minutes, or is it even his responsibility to be sure everyone is listening intently? Here's even a bigger question: when you hear a sermon, what are you doing

to absorb the information? There are three basic dispositions people have when they hear a sermon:

(1). *Confirmation*. This group doesn't want to be challenged by the sermon. They just want the preacher to confirm what they already know. They see the sermon more as of a recital than a proclamation of the gospel.

(2). *Protestation*. This group's instinct is to critique the sermon. They like to challenge the topic of the lesson, the presentation of the lesson, or the person who teaches the lesson. They see the preacher as someone who is *trying* to preach, but he never quite lives up to their lofty standards.

(3). *Transformation*. This is the group who hears a sermon with the intention of being transformed by the message. They know the preacher is not perfect and his presentation is not flawless, but they know that his God and his Savior are perfect. They know that as long as his message is from God's word, his message will transform their lives and draw them closer to God.

All avenues of worship need our undivided attention. Make sure that you're prepared for worship each Sunday!

James Hayes
