

Instrumental Music and the Cross of Christ

www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: Why is it that we do not use instruments of music in our worship?

- A. The foundation of all we do is the cross of Christ. **(Gal 2:20)**
 - 1. When you have personally been crucified then whenever you hear of “the cross of Christ” it is significant.
 - 2. There are many within churches who have never been crucified and, as a result, are not Christians and have no understanding or real Christianity. **(Gal 6:14)**
- B. The stand of the cross will not be popular with other religious views. **(Gal 6:12)**
 - 1. The cross will bring clarity between the will of Christ and the desires of worldly religion.
 - 2. The crucified man will stand where the “worldly Christian” will seek a place to hide for the sake of “peace” and “unity.”
 - 3. I beg you to be crucified! You will be surprised where it will lead you.
 - 4. The question of our worship to God is clearly a cross issue. Finding fellowship with God and knowing His will is entirely defined by the Cross.

I. The Covenant of Jesus Christ was dedicated at the cross

- A. God has always used the word “covenant” to describe all relationships to Him.
 - 1. διαθήκη diatheke - 1) a disposition, arrangement, of any sort, which one wishes to be valid, the last disposition which one makes of his earthly possessions after his death, a testament or will 2) a compact, a covenant, a testament 2a) God's covenant with Noah, etc.
 - 2. Why was a covenant so significant to Noah? **(Gen 6:18)**
- B. God has always required a “shedding of blood” in order for a relationship to exist with Him. **(Heb 9:18, 22-23)**
 - 1. As the Jews has a covenant that defined their relationship with God, we as Christians have a better covenant based upon the blood shed at the cross of Christ. **(Heb 8:6)**
 - 2. Did you remember the “blood of the covenant” when you partook of the Lord’s supper? **(Mt 26:28-29; 1 Cor 11:24-25)**
- C. The covenant is extensive and complete. Both the shedding of Christ’s blood and the delivery of the covenant was a “once for all” event. **(Heb 9:26-28)**
 - 1. How many of you would fall for one that claimed that a new sacrifice for our sins needs to be made?
 - 2. There are three things in this verse that are “once for all,” that is, they will never be repeated or added to.
 - 3. The delivery of the covenant was also a “once for all” event. **(Jude 3)**
 - a. It is in this body of truth, “the faith,” that will obey the Lord. **(Gal 6:7)**
 - b. What about those who contend for an ongoing delivery of God’s will?

II. The Cross of Christ demands that we abide in His covenant alone

- A. God revealed the place and time where the old covenant ended. **(Col 2:14-17)**
 - 1. This plainly shows the scope of a covenant. Worship and service are central issues to a relationship with God.

2. As the Old Covenant was removed at the cross, the New covenant was now in force. **(Heb 9:16-17)**
3. Without this knowledge we would have great confusion as we read the Bible.
- B. Our eternal salvation depends upon our understanding this distinction. **(Gal 5:1-4)**
 1. Many Jewish Christians gave into pressure and tried to force Gentile Christians to be circumcised according to the Old Covenant.
 2. This was not a matter of traditions or conveniences, but the Cross of Christ itself! **(Gal 5:11)**
 3. How many religious practices are based upon the Old Covenant alone?
 4. Where in the New Covenant do we read of: tithing, a separate priesthood (clergy), burning of incense, or using instruments of music to praise God?

III. What does the Cross of Christ teach us about worship?

- A. How should we approach the Lord's Supper? **(Mt 26:26-28)**
 1. We must remember the reason for why we eat.
 2. Does the outward form matter? Suppose we substituted hamburger and coke for the "fruit of the vine" and "bread?"
 3. Do we change the instructions of the covenant because of human wisdom or convenience?
 4. Could we use "bread" and "fruit of the vine" but add some peanut butter to it?
- B. How should we praise God in our worship?
 1. Under the Old Covenant God gave specific instructions that included both vocal and instrumental music. **(2 Chron 29:25-26)**
 2. Why not look at every verse in the New Covenant and see what God wants?

	<i>Vocal Music</i>	<i>Instrumental Music</i>
<i>Matthew 26:30</i>	_____	_____
<i>Acts 16:25</i>	_____	_____
<i>Romans 15:9</i>	_____	_____
<i>1 Corinthians 14:15</i>	_____	_____
<i>Ephesians 5:19</i>	_____	_____
<i>Colossians 3:16</i>	_____	_____
<i>Hebrews 2:12</i>	_____	_____
<i>Hebrews 13:15</i>	_____	_____
<i>James 5:13</i>	_____	_____

IV. These questions are made much simpler when seen in the shadow of the cross.

- A. Look at the example of Jesus!
 1. Basic reverence for God causes us to stand only in what He teaches.
 2. Consider what Jesus taught about handling God's word.
(Mt 4:4; Jn 5:19, 30; 8:28)
 3. It is basic reverence to God that we do nothing when God's word is silent!
- B. In both Old and New Testament worship had to be chosen (authorized) by God.

Conclusion: Is the blood of the New Covenant sufficient for you? **(Heb 13:20-21)**

- A. The people who submit to the Great Shepherd will be very different from the world.
(Jn 12:48-50)
- B. Are you ashamed of the Cross or boldly carrying it? **(Gal 6:12, 14)**