



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ

## Confidence Corner

John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* we are going to consider some thoughts regarding the use of Mechanical Instrumental Music in Christian Worship. In the

coming weeks sermons will be presented indicating why it is that churches of Christ do not use mechanical instruments of music in worship to God.

The New Testament teaches: The Use of Mechanical Instruments of Music in Christian Worship is Without Scriptural Authority and Therefore Sinful. In the coming weeks, two lessons will be delivered in an effort to present the biblical teaching on this subject. This week I will preach a lesson on this topic and in August Daniel will present a lesson on this topic.

Though we are of different ages and different generations, I believe because we will both be using the Bible as our authority, the teaching will be uniform.

In addition, for the next few weeks we will run an article on the inside of the bulletin from Wayne Jackson of Stockton, California regarding the authorized elements of music in the Church. These articles though different in content from the sermons will still provide evidence that is needed to be considered regarding this topic of serious significance.

As we think about the topic in light of the religious world in general, we recognize that the Churches practice of a cappella music is indeed

## Youth Happenings

Daniel Capshaw

A very exciting week is under way as our young people are at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, TN for Horizons. Horizons is designed to teach young people according to their God given roles how to be leaders in the church. Horizons teaches skills on public speaking, serving and ministering to others. Please pray for our young people as we travel, and as they seek to learn more about our loving God and how to serve Him and His people better.

Isaiah 59:1-2:

"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."

The term "fall away" is such a sad term, is it not? It admits first and foremost that someone was close to or on the goal. How can you fall from somewhere you never were? It also implies that there was a choice made to be something less than what you were called to be. As Isaiah writes, he points out the personal nature of sin, and the blame for falling away falls solely on us. Notice what he says: "but YOUR iniquities have separated you from your God, and YOUR sins have hidden his face from you. . ."

Our sin separates us from God, and what worse thing could there be than a separation from the one who gives

## Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. - *Mechanical Instrumental Music*  
*Ephesians 5:15-21*

# The Authorized Elements of Church Music: Part 1

by: Wayne Jackson

Jesus Christ declared there are three elements to appropriate Christian worship. It must be directed to deity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit); worship must be rendered in “spirit” (sincerely), and it must be offered consistent with revealed “truth” (John 4:24; 17:17).

Paul declared worship must be “in the name of Christ”; the phrase signifies by his authority (Colossians 3:17; cf. Matthew 10:1; Mark 16:17), not a rote recitation of certain words. The apostle condemned “will-worship,” which is any form of worship explicitly “forbidden,” or “unbidden” (Thayer, 1968, 168). There are three components of proper music in corporate Christian worship:

- The form of music;
- The nature of the melody;
- The manner of presentation.

## Singing

The two major categories of “music” are mechanical and vocal. Which is authorized by the New Testament? Clearly only vocal music. All passages mentioned in the New Testament having to do with Christian worship authorize singing (Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9, 1 Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16-17; Hebrews 2:12; James 5:13) — nothing more. Mechanical accompaniment was an innovation that came centuries later.

The renowned McClintock & Strong Cyclopedic notes that while the Jews used instruments in their worship, the early Christians did not. “The general introduction of instrumental music can certainly not be assigned to a date earlier than the 5th or 6th centuries” (1968, VI.759). Even leading Protestant scholars have opposed the use of instrumental music in Christian worship, e.g., Calvin (Presbyterian), Clarke (Methodist), and Spurgeon (Baptist). These men acknowledged that the early church did not employ instruments and that such were human additions unauthorized by the Lord. The Wycliffe Bible Dictionary states: “There is no record in the [New Testament] of the use of instruments in the musical worship of the Christian church” (Pfeiffer, et al. 2003, 1163).

The arguments commonly introduced in defense of mechanical instruments are shallow and forced.

1. “Instruments were used in the Old Testament era.” The Jews also sacrificed animals in their worship. The early Christians knew that instruments were employed under the Mosaic system; why then did they not embrace them?
2. “The New Testament doesn’t explicitly condemn them.” Neither does it explicitly condemn praying to Mary, or baptizing infants. Why didn’t the early church incorporate the use of instruments, rationalizing that Jesus never specifically condemned them, nor did Paul?
3. “There will be harps in heaven.” Will there be the burning of incense as well (Revelation 5:8)? Will Jesus be a Lamb (5:6)? The language is symbolic. There will be neither literal harps nor incense.
4. “If a church can have an air conditioning unit, why can’t it have an organ?” Air conditioning does not alter the nature of one’s worship. Cooling a building is an expedient; incorporating an instrument changes the nature of the worship action and is an addition.

Arguments employed in defense of instrumental accompaniment in worship are trite and bereft of New Testament support. (To be continued next week)

Source: <http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1518-the-authorized-elements-of-church-music>

# News and Notes

**RUBY KEISTER** was released from Hardin Memorial Hospital Monday night after treatment for pneumonia.

**RICHARD LAWSON** has been dealing with some back problems. **HOLLY WALKER** is scheduled for lasik eye surgery July 8. **BETTY JABROCKI**, Joyce Pack's sister, was admitted to the hospital (ICU) in Michigan yesterday.

McDonald, Kathy McNutt, Robert & Susan Moller, Debra Morgan, Hailey Nontell (MI), Joe Pawley, Penny Pirtle, Johnna Ramsey, Joe & Patsy Richter, Larry Smith, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Florence Stull, Terri Thompson, Juanita Tillery, Nila Walling, Tanya Waters, Kevin Weaver, Margaret Whisenant, Virginia Wiser

## MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Carl Mercer
Carl & Delsie Axton	Tom Morgan
Neil Burden	Rosa Lee Norman
Faye Guess	Pansy Sells
Dorothy Hawkins	Grace Speer
Roy Johnson	David Tirado
Ashlee Leister	Barbara Underwood
Diane Lewis	Lonnie Underwood
Dan Marcum	John & Dorothea Weaver
J Martin	Lawrence Wells

### Remember the following military personnel:

*Afghanistan*—Kelly Leverett, Travis Clonch, Kevin Meredith

*Iraq*—Drew McAlpin

*Fort Knox*—Michael Morrow, Israel Fox, Barry Barclay, Nathan Miller, A. J. Anderson, Roni Reed, Stephen Hanson

*Others*—Robert E. Wooten, Korry Leverett, Joe Betterton, Terry Turner, Brett Fleming, Nathan McClain, Ronald O'Bryant, Aaron Wellman, Dan Sloat, Gregory Stack, Tim Gil, Kyle Nowland, John Rozonewski, Cameron Ponder, Brian Wilkins

**Additional Prayer List:** John D. Board, Priscilla Boyd, George Briggs, Roy Buckles, Sue Cantrell, Michael Clymer, Elizabeth Cooper, Jim & Peggy Fryer, Brenda Gaddie, Royce Goodman, Peggy Hagler, Ginell Harris, John Kavanaugh, Larry Lemasters, Ricky Mann, Sherry Marcum, Steven Martin, Gayle Massey, Terri

## Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 7/11/10                      canned pork'n'beans

## Thank You

Your caring words of encouragement, kind cards of support, and most importantly your prayers for healing have been greatly appreciated and for those things we thank you.

*In Christian Love, Dan & Sharlene Marcum*

## Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Don Bunnell and his family in the death Monday of his sister-in-law, Judell Bunnell, who was a member of Larue County Church of Christ. Visitation is Thursday at Winn Funeral Home in Horse Cave from 4:00-8:00 p.m. CDT and the funeral will be Friday at 2:00 p.m. CDT.

We also extend our heartfelt sympathy to Kay & Ray Pack and their family in the death of Kay's dad, Bobby Montgomery, who passed away Monday in Mississippi. His funeral is Thursday in New Albany, MS.

Deepest sympathy is expressed to Valrie Simmons and her family in the death last week of a relative in Georgia.

### BENEVOLENT CENTER UPDATE

#### JUNE 2010

Food Center	187 families helped
Clothing Center	76 families helped

### BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE

### OUR RECORD FOR

July 4, 2010

Sunday Bible Study	114
Sunday Morning Assembly	199
Sunday Evening Assembly	108
Wednesday Bible Study	109

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## Bible Question

***This Week's Bible Question: How were the inner walls of the temple finished?***

***Last Week's Bible Question: Who said it was better to live on the roof than with a quarrelsome woman? The correct answer is Solomon, Proverbs 21:9. Those who correctly answered the question are: Mary Walker, Lorene Harris, Edna Ashlock, Wilma Stull, Joyce Pack, Jean Smith, Rick Eiler, and Bloria Taylor.***

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday:

*Bible Classes 9:30 A.M.*

*Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.*

*Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.*

July 12 — Psalm 146-150

### Daily Bible Reading Schedule

July 31 — Madisonville Bible Bowl

July 25 — Singing at Atria

July 18 — Youth Devo

July 12 — Church Workers Workshop

July 11 — Bible Bowl get-together

July 11 — Bible Bowl Practice

## PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Elizabethtown, KY 42702

P. O. Box 652

Elizabethtown Church of Christ

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