**Making Melody in Your Heart**

*Ephesians 5:19*

**Introduction**

1. Throughout the Old Testament, we see plenty of instances of the children of Israel worshiping God in song with the accompaniment of musical instruments.
2. However, when we get to the New Testament, all appearances and utterances of the accompaniment of musical instruments in worship cease.
3. Instead, Paul wrote – **Ephesians 5:18-19**
4. Do we have authority to use mechanical instruments in our song worship today? If not, why not?
5. Why would God do away with mechanical instruments in worship?
6. What is authorized?
7. Command/Direct Statement
   1. **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16** – command to sing, speaking to one another in song.
   2. **James 5:13** – sing.
8. Example
   1. **Acts 16:25** – singing hymns to God.
9. Necessary Inference
   1. Passages concerning music in worship:
      1. Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26 – “they had sung a hymn”
      2. Acts 16:25 – “Paul and Silas were…singing hymns to God”
      3. Romans 15:9 – “I will…sing to Your name.”
      4. 1 Corinthians 14:15 – “I will sing with the spirit…I will…sing with the understanding.”
      5. Ephesians 5:19 – “singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”
      6. Colossians 3:16 – “singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
      7. Hebrews 2:12 – “I will sing praise to You.”
      8. James 5:13 – “Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.”
   2. What is specified, in the absence of any other inclusion by command/direct statement, example, and necessary inference necessarily excludes all other things – **Hebrews 7:11-14** – silence is prohibitive.
10. Aid or Addition?
    1. An aid, or expediency, must be authorized – **1 Corinthians 10:23** (***“expedient,” KJV***)
    2. An aid helps in carrying out a command of God – command to sing is aided by song books.
    3. An addition changes what is being done, and hinders the fulfillment of a command – “playing” is added to singing when a mechanical instrument is used.
11. What about the Old Testament use of musical instruments?
    1. Example – **Psalm 81:1-4**
    2. Nailed to the cross – **Colossians 2:14**
    3. Made obsolete – **Hebrews 8:7-8, 13**
    4. **Why was there use of mechanical instruments in the Old Testament, but not in the New?**
12. Fleshly Ordinances and the Earthly Sanctuary
13. Instruments Associated with the Tabernacle and Temple
    1. Instruction for two silver trumpets – **Numbers 10:1-10**
       1. **(vv. 1-3)** – as commanded by God for specific use.
       2. **(v. 8)** – specific persons to use them – priests.
       3. **(vv. 9-10)** – specific use.
    2. David’s instructions by the Lord regarding the service of the tabernacle (when the ark is brought to Jerusalem) – **1 Chronicles 15:15-16, 24, 28; 16:1, 6**
       1. **(v. 16)** – Levites
       2. **(v. 24)** – priests
       3. **(16:6)** – priests.
    3. David’s instructions to Solomon concerning the building of the Temple – **1 Chronicles 28:11-13, 19; 2 Chronicles 29:25-28** (Hezekiah restores worship in the Temple)
       1. **1 Chronicles 28:19; 2 Chron 29:25** – according to the Lord’s instructions.
       2. **1 Chronicles 28:13** – priests and Levites
       3. **2 Chronicles 29:25-26** – Levites and priests
    4. **NOTE: Psalm 81:1-4 – these instructions regarding instruments are heavily directed to the Levites and priests.**
14. ***“ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary…fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.” (Hebrews 9:1, 10)***
    1. Earthly priesthood, a mere copy and shadow – **Hebrews 8:4-5**
    2. Not perfection (completion) through Levitical priesthood, change of priesthood change of law – **Hebrews 7:11-12, 18-19**
       1. Perfection – **Hebrews 10:1-2** – i.e. through true remission of sins.
       2. **Comprehensive – the entire priesthood and law that was built around it was not the figure, but the shadow.**
    3. The Levitical priestly service had to do with the earthly sanctuary – **Hebrews 9:1-5, 10** – ***“until the time of reformation”***
       1. **Reformation** – *diorthoma* – “signifies ‘a reform, amendment, correction,’ lit., ‘a making straight’ (*dia*, ‘through,’ *orthoo*, ‘to make straight’)” (VINE); “a process leading to a new order viewed as something yet to be realized, improvement, reformation, new order” (BDAG)
       2. **This was all preparatory, and not the right and final arrangement itself:**
          1. **Lampstand** – continual burning light.
             1. **NOW** – spiritual light of full revelation in Christ Jesus.
          2. **Table and Showbread** – for the priests to eat.
             1. **NOW** – spiritual bread of God’s word that is our portion.
          3. **Golden censor** – altar of incense – perpetual incense before the Lord.
             1. **NOW** – prayers of the saints.
          4. **Ark of the covenant**
             1. **Golden pot with manna** – reminder of God’s provision in the wilderness.

**NOW** – by every word proceeding from the mouth of God’s Son – the true bread of heaven (**cf. John 6**).

* + - * 1. **Aaron’s rod that budded** – after rebellion of Korah, seeking to usurp priesthood – 12 rods taken including Aarons, rod that buds shows GOD’S CHOICE – House of Aaron, tribe of Levi. (**cf. Numbers 17**)

**NOW** – we are all priests (**cf. 1 Peter 2:5**).

* + - * 1. **Tablets of the covenant** – the Law of Moses written on stone (10 Commandments)

**NOW** – Law of Christ written on our heart (**cf. 2 Corinthians 3:3**)

* + - 1. **Cherubim of glory** – through which God spoke.
         1. **NOW** – He speaks through His Son (**cf. Hebrews 1:1-2)**
      2. **Mercy seat** – where blood was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement.
         1. **NOW** – True atonement through the blood of Christ presented in the true Holy Place, Heaven itself.
  1. **It was in the service of this Tabernacle that the physical tribe of Levi and the priests in it utilized mechanical instruments at God’s command in the services and worship – like all these others changed at *“the time of reformation”* for good reason, so did the music in worship.**

1. Worship In Spirit and Truth
2. The Time Jesus Looked Forward To – **John 4:23-24** – worship in spirit and truth.
   1. NOT – physical location.
   2. NOT – physical lineage.
   3. TRUE WORSHIPERS AND WORSHIP – Spirit and Truth.
   4. The commands for the musical side of worship today are tailored to this – **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**
3. The Context of Ephesians
   1. Spiritual blessings – **Ephesians 1:3**
      1. Including spiritual adoption – **Ephesians 1:5**
   2. Spiritual power – **Ephesians 1:20**
   3. Spiritual resurrection to spiritual places – **Ephesians 2:6**
   4. Spiritual work – **Ephesians 2:10**
   5. Spiritual man – **Ephesians 2:15-16** – not Jew or Gentile, but the family of God in Christ.
   6. Spiritual revelation to spiritual fullness – **Ephesians 3:5, 19**
   7. Application of spiritual living – **Ephesians 4-6** – Unity, edification, putting on new man, walking as children of light, honoring God in relationships, waging the good warfare w/ spiritual armor.
   8. The church as the fullness of Christ – **Ephesians 1:22-23**
      1. **Command to sing is a part of this spiritual focus, and equips us to be the fullness of Christ – *“fullness of Him who fills all in all”***
      2. **Ephesians 5:15-20** – very spiritual, to the specific and purposeful exclusion of something physical/mechanical.
         1. **(vv. 15-16)** – walk exactly.
         2. **(v. 17)** – understand God’s will.
         3. **(v. 18)** – contrast – filled with wine that takes away ability to walk with exactness, filled with the Spirit that directs our lives in spiritual service.
         4. **(vv. 19-20)** – involving the human heart – intellect, will, emotion – filled with Spirit’s instruction.
4. The Context of Colossians
   1. Spiritual production – **Colossians 1:6**
   2. Spiritual growth – **Colossians 1:9**
   3. Spiritual kingdom – **Colossians 1:13**
   4. Spiritual authority – **Colossians 1:18**
   5. Spiritual goal – **Colossians 1:27-29**
   6. Spiritual substance – **Colossians 2:6-7, 9-10** (contrasted with what is fleshly – philosophy, man’s wisdom, OT – **Colossians 2:14-16**)
   7. Application to spiritual life with Christ – **Colossians 3-4** – Seeking things above where Christ is, putting to death earthly, putting on spiritual, honoring Christ in relationships.
   8. Christ as the fullness of the church – **Colossians 2:9-10**
      1. **Command to sing is a part of this spiritual focus, bringing true spiritual sustenance and riches (in contrast to the false religion of chapter 2) through the word of Christ.**
      2. **Colossians 3:16-17** – word of Christ dwells in us through song – involving the human heart – intellect, will, emotion – leads to life of full surrender **(v. 17).**
         1. Purposeful in the exclusion of something earthly, mechanical, physical – **Colossians 2:8**
5. The Heart of the Matter
   1. Under the Old Testament – **Psalm 150** – praise to God involving mechanical instruments.
      1. **(v. 4)** – stringed instruments.
      2. ***“Praise Him with…”*** – **(v. 6)** – everything that has breath (emphasis on man).
      3. I.e. ultimately, whatever praise was truly coming was coming from the man.
         1. When it wasn’t – **Amos 5:21-23**
   2. Under the New Testament – ***“the time of reformation” (Hebrews 9:10)*** – **Ephesians 5:18-19** – melody is made in the heart.
      1. ***“making melody”*** – *psallō* – “to twitch or twang, i.e. to play on a stringed instrument” (STRONG)
         1. “to touch sharply, to pluck, pull, twitch” (Liddell and Scott)
         2. Later, took on meaning just to sing **– Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15** (2x); **James 5:13**
      2. **What is being twitched, twanged, plucked? What “stringed instrument” is being played? – *“your heart”***
   3. The complete man for God in Christ – **Matthew 22:37; 1 Thessalonians 5:23**
      1. Reflected in the musical aspect of worship – **Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19**
      2. Nothing else, just the souls of those together who are God’s children, filled and transformed by the Spirit revealed and life-giving word, using our God-given voices to pour our hearts out in sincere praise – **Hebrews 13:15**
      3. **“Praise Him with…”your heart!**

**Conclusion**

1. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that the worship God always wanted was the pure spiritual activity of the heart directed toward Him in praise and devotion.
2. The Old Testament was preparatory through and through – this includes the way they worshiped in song.
3. The true, substantive, full and rich spiritual worship is realized, not in semblance to the Old Testament, but in fulfillment of the New Testament!
4. May our hearts be filled with sincere adoration, reverence, devotion, thanksgiving, and praise as we worship God in the powerful simplicity of singing.