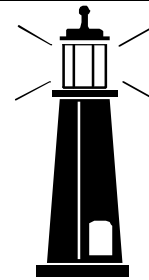


The Berryville church of Christ

# Bible Beacon

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)



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## Should We Use Instrumental Music in Worship?

*Kevin Cauley*

**Y**es! In fact, we have a divine obligation to use instrumental music in worship! Perhaps you are wondering at this point if this writer is the same Kevin Cauley who preaches for the Berryville church of Christ in Berryville, Arkansas. You know, the church that doesn't believe in "instrumental music." Well, it is the same one. Some of you have probably already caught on as to what is coming in the article. To the rest I say, read on dear friend!

Many people today use pianos, guitars, and other similar instruments in their worship. This is **NOT** the kind of instrument of which I am speaking. But the Bible does teach us to use an instrument to accompany our singing in worship to God. In Ephesians 5:19 we read, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Notice the phrase "in your heart" in this passage. The instrument upon which God expects the Christian to "play" is the heart. Colossians 3:16 states this principle in similar words, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." In both Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 instrumental accompaniment is commanded. Singing is to be accompanied with a specific instrument—the heart. *Please note that when God **specifies** something, we must respect God's instructions.* Let's look at several Bible examples that illustrate this principle.

One great example where God specifies the use of a particular item is Noah and the ark. If we look back at Genesis 6:14, God tells Noah, "Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch." We don't know what gopher wood was, but Noah knew! God **specified** this type of

wood for a reason and Noah was expected to respect God's specific instructions in that regard. In Genesis 6:22, "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did." Noah built the ark out of gopher wood because God told him to do it that way and was saved from the flood.

Another great example is found in Exodus 12, where God gives Moses specific instructions for how to avoid the tenth plague—the death of the firstborn. Part of the instructions were to kill a lamb, take the blood and put it on the doorposts and lintel with a bunch of hyssop twigs (Exodus 12:7, 22). The Bible says that when God saw the blood, He would pass over the house and spare the firstborn. God **specified** a lamb's blood. Those who followed God's specific instructions were spared the life of their firstborn. Those who used anything but the blood of a lamb lost their firstborn that night.

We read of a man named Naaman in 2 Kings chapter 5. Naaman had leprosy, a deadly disease, but through the prophet Elisha, God gave Naaman the opportunity to be healed. God gave Naaman a **specific** condition. Naaman had to immerse himself in the Jordan river seven times. Naaman was angry because he didn't want to get into that nasty, muddy, dirty Jordan River, but God had **specified** THAT river. Naaman wanted to go back to his homeland and immerse himself in one of the rivers of Damascus. He said, "Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage" (2 Kings 5:12). But those rivers could not have cleansed him. Only after washing seven times in the Jordan did Naaman's leprosy go away.

As a last example, many in the religious world today observe the Lord's supper. Paul tells us that this holy meal is to be observed in remem-

brance of the death of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:24). Both Jesus body and His blood are represented in this supper. No doubt everyone in the religious world who observes the Lord's supper can tell you the elements used within it. These elements are the bread and the fruit of the vine. These things were **specifically** mentioned by Jesus as items that were to be used to in this supper (Matthew 26:26-29). Now ask one who observes this religious practice if Jesus would be happy if we substituted a McDonald's hamburger for the bread and Coca Cola for the fruit of the vine. The predominant response you would receive would be, "Of course not. Jesus said to use bread and fruit of the vine and that settles that." To which we reply, Amen.

In each of these Bible examples God **specified** something and those who wanted to receive the blessings of God were expected to do as God had specified. Noah was to build the ark of gopher wood because that was what God **specified**. Moses was to use the blood of a lamb because that was what God **specified**. Naaman was to immerse himself seven times in the Jordan river because that is what God **specified**. Christians are expected to partake of the bread and fruit of the vine in the Lord's supper because that is what God **specifies**. In each of these instances to abandon, substitute, or add something different for what God specified would have lead to disaster. Noah's ark would have sunk. Moses would have lost his firstborn son. Naaman would have died of leprosy. Christians would have observed "in an unworthy manner" (1 Corinthians 11:29). The principle in each of these examples is the same. When God **specifies** how He wants something done, we must do it the way God says to do it without deletion, substitution, or addition.

Let me refine my question in the title of this article. What instrument should the Christian use to worship God in song? The heart—God has **specified** the heart as the instrument the Christian is to accompany song in worship to Him. If we delete the heart, substitute some other instrument for the heart or add some other instrument to the heart, then we worship in vain. Should we accompany our worship to God in song with any other instrument of music than the heart? No, we should not. To do such would be to abandon the blessings that God says we have through worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Our worship to God must be done as God has **specified**. To worship God in any other way than the way God has **specified** is to place our own righteousness above the righteousness of God. Let us humbly submit to God's will in our songs of worship.

## Kevin's Korner



**T**oday is the third day of August. We have several things happening this month for which everyone should look out! Our youth rally is August 22nd and 23rd with Willie Franklin. Let's all pray for this effort influence the youth within the brotherhood. The third Sunday of this month, August 17th will be our Back to School BBQ! We want to use this opportunity to invite others to come to worship with us before we all go back to school. Rusty is taking a group to Mountain Home for a youth rally August 8th and 9th. All of our kids start school and our graduates go to college this month. All will be busy preparing for school. This month has five Sundays, so the last Sunday of the month will be our regular singing at the nursing home. Let's use this month o the glory of God and bring more souls into His kingdom!

Glenn Q. and I went fishing this past Monday out on Beaver lake. We caught what Glenn says were three line-side small-mouth bass. They were all of decent size, so we took them with us to eat! Thanks Glen for the fishing trip!

This past Friday Mary Lynn, the boys, and I went to Harrison and picked up our new glasses. I think both of us can see much better now. We are grateful to the congregation for providing a measure of support to us for our medical needs.

In John 9:39 we read, "And Jesus said, For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind." Just as we need correction for our eyesight physically, so also we occasionally need correction for our eyesight spiritually. Jesus gives us all of the correction that we need in this regard through His word. Let us learn it, obey it, live it, and teach it to others.

**Elders:** Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

**Deacons:** Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle.

**Preacher:** Kevin Cauley 870-423-6707

### Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:.....9:30 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship: ..... 10:30 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship: .....6:00 PM  
 Ladies Bible Class:..... 10:30 AM  
 Wed. Evening Bible Class:.....7:00 PM

# REDEEMING THE TIME

Tom Moore

Paul, in a context of exhortation to regulate their conduct with wisdom, says, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16). Paul informs us that we need to travel the Christian walk carefully, accurately, and diligently. We are not to walk as "unwise" (i.e. a person who **does not** consult the Lord's instruction as to the proper way to walk), but "as wise" (i.e. one who **does** consult and obey God's instruction). One of the instructions we are to abide by is "redeeming the time."

What does Paul mean by "redeeming the time"? "Redeeming" comes from the Greek word **exagorazo**, and in this context means to "make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good." As Christians on a long journey toward heaven our desired goal **must** be to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way to teach, edify and work benevolently.

How many times do we allow the Lord's work to suffer because we do not **make** time to be involved in these crucial efforts. There are many things that cry for our time. I am sure that we have all, at times, bewailed the fact that there were not enough hours in the day to accomplish all we would like. But beloved, we do not need more time, we need to "redeem the time." But how do we redeem the time when it seems that it is always in such short supply?

Have you ever wondered, now be honest, how we somehow find the time to do the things we really want to do, but those things we care less about we never seem to find the time to do them? Could it be that we "redeem the time" when it suits us? Are we "redeeming the time" when it comes to the Lord's work?

There are three avenues we can travel in regard to "redeeming the time" or opportunities: 1) Make opportunities, 2) Use opportunities, or 3)

Waste opportunities. Surely no one would contend that a faithful Christian should waste any opportunity to do good! Remember, we always seem to find time to do the things we want to do. Let us consider a few things Christians must take time to do - thus, "redeeming the time."

1. We must "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Are you spending time each day to feast on God's word?
2. We must "do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10). Are you giving benevolent, emotional and spiritual aid to those in need?
3. We must "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). Are you telling your friends about the good news of the Gospel?
4. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 5:17). Do those around you know that you are a Christian by the way you act and speak?
5. We must not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as some habitually do (Heb.10:25). Are you attending every Worship Service and Bible Class.
6. We must love not through mere words, but "in deed and in truth" (1Jn.3:18). Remember, actions speak louder than words.
7. We must "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). Are you opposing that which is false and standing by that which is true?

All the above requires time to accomplish. With all the above we make or take opportunity to fulfill. Are we redeeming the time? Life is so short and there will come a time when time is no more - no more opportunities! Again, are we redeeming the time?

## Sunday's Sermons

For August 3rd

Morning..... The Greatest Message (2)

Scripture ..... 2 Peter 1:1-4

Evening..... Catholicism

Scripture ..... 1 John 4:1

## Our Record

Week of 7/27

Sunday Class..... 53

Sunday A.M. .... 72

Sunday P.M..... 60

Wednesday ..... 58

Contribution .....\$1528.50

Budget .....\$1760.00

## News, Notes and Prayer List



- Let us thank God for this wonderful Lord's day.
- We welcome all of our visitors to our worship this morning. Please fill out a visitors card so we may have a record of your attendance.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Summer Benedict, Ruth Hill, Dorothy Pogue, Maxine Whiteley.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Tonight we will have the youth devotional at Kevin and Mary Lynn's house. Please bring drinks and chips.
- Our monthly questions and answers session is scheduled for next Sunday night. If you have a question that needs answering, please put it in the box this week!
- This coming Saturday will be our monthly men's breakfast. This is a great opportunity for us to get together and encourage one another to live for Christ. Don't miss this wonderful time of fellowship.
- Rusty will be taking all who want to go to the Mountain Home youth rally this next weekend—August 8th and 9th. If you desire to go with our youth on this trip, please let Rusty know. If you wish to help with expenses, see Rusty.
- OUR youth rally is scheduled for August 22nd, and 23rd here at the Berryville church of Christ. Willie Franklin will be our speaker. Let's invite as many of our friends and neighbors that will come.
- We have so many things scheduled for this month, let's remember all of our work in prayer to the Father.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Green Beans.



## Those to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	<b>August 3rd, 2003</b>	<b>August 10th, 2003</b>
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Leon Duncan	Bruce Foster
<b>Scripture:</b>	Perry Foster	Ray Duncan
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Bill Fort
	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
<b>(assist)</b>	Rusty Windle	Brandon Foster
	Sandy Nieves	Glenn Williams
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Glenn Quigley	George Eddings
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
<b>Scripture:</b>	Bruce Foster	Sandy Nieves
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	George Eddings	Rusty Windle
	Ray Duncan	Jack Gentry
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dale Pinkley	Perry Foster
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Clay Bozarth
<b>Invitation:</b>	Rusty Windle	Ken Smith
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Bill Fort	Glenn Quigley
<b>Monthly Assignments</b>		
<b>Announcements</b>	Kevin Cauley	
<b>Worship Coordinator</b>	Larry Elliott	
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Shawna Stevens	Lucille Fort
<b>Communion Carry</b>	Brandon Foster	Bruce Foster

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