Sing*

2Timothy 3:14-17 (14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;
(15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
(16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
(17) That the man of God may be perfect, **throughly** furnished unto all good works.
Not all professed Christians have a faith that cometh by hearing the word of God. I know that sounds strange, but somehow people began to believe, "the Bible does not say we cannot," therefor it is OK to have an instrument of music in the worship service. But what did the word say? Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Ro 10:17). *Therefore faith in, of, or for instrumental music in worship service is based upon nonexistent scripture. Jesus said;* Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God (Luke 4:4). *We must develop a faith based upon every word of God and they only. Churches of Christ refusing the use of instrumental music in worship, do not do so just to be different but peculiar (Titus 2:14). To us, it is not a matter of expediency, but rather, what is right or justified. We believe no religious question is rightly solved by the criteria of "personal preferences, individual tastes, or human wisdom," but only by the supreme authority of Jesus Christ as expressed in the New Testament. The Church has reverently and humbly sought out the correct answer to the all-important question: Does Jesus Christ authorize the use of instrumental music in the worship of God? By investigation of the divine word it has produced the conclusion that neither command, precept, or*

example of instrumental music included in New Testament worship is acceptable. Therefore, we sincerely believe that the practice of instrumental music in the worship service is a departure from the divine plan. To begin our quest of the all-important question of music we will begin in the first book of the New Testament. One must begin with supreme authority. Listen to this; While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him (Matthew 17:5). *This is indeed a strong statement, placing all authority in Jesus Christ. However, God has spoken and it was so, turn to;*

Matthew 28:16-20 (16) Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.
(17) And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.
(18) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth**.
(19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
(20) **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you**: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

We conclude that God has given all power to Jesus and that we are to observe all things He has taught, nothing more and nothing less. We also conclude that the Holy Ghost would bring to remembrance all things Jesus taught the apostles to do and to teach. As such we conclude that every single New Testament reference to music in divine worship pertains to ***singing only****: please consider for yourself, it is an eternal decision.* And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them (Acts 16:25). *The interesting fact here is Paul and Silas were singing praises unto God, they were not singing and playing for personal entertainment. There were no instruments of music with*

*them, had there been the word would have told us. They were singing in the manner they had been taught by the Holy Ghost. Many times we hear, "the Bible does not say we cannot have instruments of music". However there cannot be logical argument for a doctrine based on what the Bible **does not say**. In fact the preacher warns;* There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 16:25). *But one may say, they were in prison and did not have access to an instrument. Had instrumental music been a requirement, then Paul and Silas would have had an instrument. It is written;* And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name (Romans 15:9). *There is no mention of an instrument, the word simply confirms "*sing." *One could add an instrument of music, but do you dare?* Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar (Proverbs 30:6), and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Revelation 21:8). What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will **sing with the spirit**, and I will **sing with the understanding** also (1Corinthians 14:15). *There is an interesting correlation between pray and sing in this verse. Both are to be with the spirit and both are to be with the understanding also. We are to pray with the spirit and we are to sing with the spirit. We are to pray with understanding and we are to sing with understanding also. By the law of language, if one is to be performed with an instrument, so is the other. If one is to be performed by voice only, so is the other. What would prayer be like if accompanied by a musical instrument? It is said the Church of Christ speaks where the Bible speaks and is silent where the Bible is silent. In its worship service an instrument of music is absent because the Bible is silent for its use. Its form of song is vocal from the heart because the Bible speaks for this kind of performance.*

Again we stress the need to follow command, precept, or example and there is neither for the use of instrumental music, consider; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (Ephesians 5:19). *Could one sing with a flute stuck in his mouth? But the instrumental advocate may say, we mean play a guitar or piano. Where then is the scripture to allow one type of instrument but condemn another? What are we to do? Do this;* 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 (Colossians 3:16).

The singing which is here recommended is quite different from what is commonly used in most denominations; which consists of a collage of unintelligible melody, associated to bundles of nonsensical, and often ridiculous sounds, which cannot be understood by the human ear. Melody, which is allowed to be most proper for devotional music, is now sacrificed to an exuberant harmony by use of musical instruments. And by these preposterous means the simplicity of worship is destroyed, and all edification totally prevented. Teaching and admonishing were to be present even in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. These are to be a chief means of mutual edification which the instrument of music cannot achieve. Understand; these psalms, hymns, spiritual songs and the singing of them, being appointed as an ordinance of God to teach, instruct, admonish, and edify the saints can only be accomplished with the human voice. So where should teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs be performed? There is a scriptural example; in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee (Hebrews 2:12).

We have already read where Paul and Silas sang in prison without musical instruments and this same precept of singing is advised in the midst of the Church. Brethren, we are not in

the Church on Sunday only. And wherever we may on occasion be, from the jail house to the church house, singing without musical instruments is justified. I would not go so far to say that playing an instrument while singing religious songs for ones own entertainment, in ones own home, is wrong. However, why not sing with grace in your hearts unto the Lord? Would not singing to the Lord be more important than your own entertainment? Now turn to;

Hebrews 13:12-15 (12) Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

(13) Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

(14) For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

(15) By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the **fruit of our lips** giving thanks to his name.

Consider the example of Paul and Silas: After casting them into prison for preaching the gospel, "The magistrates rent off their clothes . . . laid many stripes on them . . . and made their feet fast in the stocks" Yet, instead of cursing or complaining, "at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God." *That was a genuine sacrifice! No matter how difficult the circumstances, those who know the Lord, always have much to praise His name for and should offer such sacrifices continually. But how can praise and giving thanks to His name be considered a sacrifice? That is* "the fruit of our lips." *The ancient prophet even called it* "the calves of our lips" (Hosea 14:2). *To bear the fruit of praise on our lips means sowing the seeds of praise in our hearts,* "for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). *The New Testament law of worship is set forth in;*

John 4:23-24 (23) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth:

for the Father seeketh such to worship him.
(24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
No worship, according to this utterance of Jesus, can be right unless it is done in Spirit and in Truth. What is Truth? Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth (John 17:17). *There can be no doubt the Word of God is truth. Therefore any addition to, or subtraction from the word of truth then, would not be true worship because such alterations would be out of context. Thus we can conclude that the addition of instrumental music in worship violates the law of worship expressed in John 4:24. Instrumental music in worship to God is neither in Spirit nor in Truth because the instrument can express neither. To fully understand the law of worship, the opposite of true worship should be explored also. All forms of worship unauthorized by Jesus are in vain according to;*
Matthew 15:7-9 (7) Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,
(8) This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.
(9) But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
Paul states; But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:8). *Therefore the use of instrumental music in worship, being absent in the gospel of Christ, must be another gospel. One word that caused the downfall of man was a little word, hardly noticeable. The word was NOT, but it was an addition, turn your Bibles to;*
Genesis 3:1-6 (1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
(2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the

fruit of the trees of the garden:
(3) But of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.
(4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall **not** surely die:
(5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
(6) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.
The devil lied and as a result death came upon mankind. The first physical death recorded was the tragic murder of a beloved son committed by his own brother. The devil had lied to the woman and now Cain had lied to God. Because of Cain's evil he was cursed and set aside from the family of God. Interestingly, instruments of music can be traced to the sixth generation from Cain; And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ (Genesis 4:21). *Does this mean instruments of music are evil? No, only that they are an invention of man and are not included into the law of worship of John 4:24. Adding instruments of music to the worship service where no scriptural command, percept, or example exist is a vain and useless doctrine. To pursue any doctrine other than the Word of God will place one into the same condition as Cain, CURSED! Beware if satan whispers, thou shall **not** die if you worship God with an instrument.*
She worships in song by James M. Tolle
There is not a solitary reference to the use of instrumental music in the worship of any New Testament church during the entirety of the apostolic age. The first appearance of instrumental music in church worship was about the sixth

century A.D. The exact date of its introduction varied in different localities; but it can safely be concluded that there was no general practicing of it until after the eighth century.
Chambers Encyclopedia, Vol. 7, page 112, says: "The organ is said to have been introduced into church music by Pope Vitalian in 666 A.D."
This is very interesting, however I cannot validate if the date 666 has anything to do with the number of a man in Revelation 13:18, *however it does raise ones curiosity doesn't it.*
The McClintock and Strong Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature, Vol. 6, page 759, "The Greeks, as well as the Jews, were wont to use instruments as accompaniments in their sacred songs. The converts to Christianity accordingly must have been familiar with this mode of singing; yet it is generally believed that the primitive Christians failed to adopt the use of instrumental music in their religious worship."
Music in the Church, page 179, makes the following statement: "The church, although lapsing more and more into defection from the truth and into a corruption of apostolic practice, had no instrumental music for 1200 years"
History of Music from the Christian Era to the Present Time, page 28, We have no real knowledge of the exact character of the music which formed a part of the religious devotion of the first Christian congregations. It was, however, purely vocal."
Ben Franklin, editor of American Christian Review, 1860.
"Instrumental music is permissible for a church under the following conditions:
1. When a church never had or has lost the Spirit of Christ.
2. If a church has a preacher who never had or has lost the Spirit of Christ, who has become a dry, prosing and lifeless preacher.
3. If a church only intends being a fashionable society, a mere place of amusements and secular entertainment and abandoning the idea of religion and worship.

4. If a church has within it a large number of dishonest and corrupt men.
5. If a church has given up all idea of trying to convert the world."

Why is all of this important? God's word tells us to sing praises to Him (Colossians 3:16). History records reveal that early Christians did just that-they sang without instruments. Instrumental music was not used in worship for several hundred years after New Testament beginnings. Why? More importantly, why has it come to be so widely used now? What has changed? Was it God's will or man's attitude? If we could remember that music in Christian worship is not for personal entertaining, but for teaching and exalting, and vocal worship to God, we would have no trouble seeing why God commanded vocal music and left out instrumental music. In summary, the human voice is capable of doing everything which God commands us to do as music in worship, while an instrument is incapable of doing anything required by music in Christian worship except make melody, but it does not do that in the right place - the human heart. The Bible, indeed, never condemns the use of instruments of music in worship, but neither does it command its use, but vocal music is. Many things we know to be wrong are not condemned by name in the Bible. Example, multiple cups, however at inauguration only one cup was used which prohibits the many.

In the New Testament, which is our guide today, the apostle Paul says that faith comes by hearing the word of God and that whatsoever is not of faith is sin. This is another way of saying that if you cannot find command, example or precept in the will of Christ, then you should avoid that precept. It is not necessary that the Word of God prohibit a precept; it is only necessary that God's will be stated thereby prohibiting the unlawful precept. Hence, the argument that instruments of music may be used because the Bible does not say we cannot, is an invalid assumption. God's people dare not act beyond

faith by adding mechanical instruments of music to the worship services. This is why singing accompanied only by the melody of the heart, is proper for the Lord's church today. With all the evidence at hand, the conclusion is inescapable: instrumental music in worship was never practiced by the primitive church. Therefore Churches of Christ today, having a faith founded upon the word of God, worship in song as the early Christians did without the aid of instrumental music. This is scriptural. This is safe. In everything we do for God, may we always follow the divine plan set forth in the New Testament. And if this can be achieved, ones faith will be the effect of belief. His commandments are stated in His gospel, revealed to the Apostles by the Holy Spirit. To sing has been revealed unto us as true worship, instrumental music has not. Now consider this; Jesus said after He was crucified; He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; *why anyone would side-step commandments spoken by the 'One with all authority' is a mystery to me. We know the devil is a noteworthy adversary, however, God is offering to all the blessings of salvation on a grace basis through faith in Christ. Faith in Christ is the effect of belief in His gospel, and baptism is the effect of that faith. Only those who first believe the testimony of God unto faith, then by faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and are baptized into His death for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. It's invitation is open, also prayer requests for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.*

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a Minister for Christ

The Ancient Church William Dool Killen

Singing, in which none but Levites were permitted to unite, and which was accompanied by instrumental music, constituted a prominent part of the temple service. The singers occupied an elevated platform adjoining the court of the priests; and it is somewhat doubtful whether, in that position, they were distinctly heard by the majority of the worshippers within the sacred precincts. As the sacrifices, offerings, and other observances of the temple, as well as the priests, the vestments, and even the building itself, had an emblematic meaning, it would appear that the singing, intermingled with the music of various instruments of sound, was also typical and ceremonial. It seems to have indicated that the tongue of man cannot sufficiently express the praise of the King Eternal, and that all things, animate and inanimate, owe Him a revenue of glory. The worship of the synagogue was more simple. Its officers had, indeed, trumpets and cornets, with which they published their sentences of excommunication, and announced the new year, the fasts, and the Sabbath; but they did not introduce instrumental music into their congregational services. The early Christians followed the example of the synagogue; and when they celebrated the praises of God "in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs," their melody was "the fruit of the lips." For many centuries after this period, the use of instrumental music was unknown in the Church.

The Name of The Church: Church of Christ
In 1902 the church at Newbern was taken over by society and organ people. The church, against Lipscomb's advice, sued to retain the property. Of course the society could muster a majority and won the lawsuit. The decision was handed down in 1905 that the trouble did not warrant the intrusion of the courts:
"The pro-organ party had said during the trial that when the organ was used as a part of the worship, it was sinful;
but they defended it on the ground that it was an aid to worship. Lipscomb, on the other hand, had insisted that it was a distinct service, and when persisted in always supersedes and destroyes congregational singing.
"The court, passing on this phase of the question, said that the claim that the organ was not a part of the worship was untenable and it could not be considered as merely an aid to worship."
Therefore, by the pro-organ sectarian's (party) own admission, validated by a Judge, instrumental music in worship was defined as sinful.

Justin Martyr 110-165 AD (A.D. 139): "The use of instrumental music was not received in the Christian churches, as it was among the Jew, in their infant state, but only the use of plain song. . . . Simply singing is not agreeable to children the aforementioned Jews, but singing with lifeless instruments and with dancing and clapping is. On this account the use of this kind of instruments and of others agreeable to children is removed from the songs of the churches, and there is left remaining simply singing."

Revised 11112019
Ref. Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary
"Sing" presented to; Baron-Dec2005/WestVille-Jan2006/ Baron-Feb2010Baron-Mar2011/BaronOk-April2012/