

Rom. 14:19
So then let
us follow
after things
which make
for peace,
and things
whereby we
may edify
one
another.

John 8:32 And
ye shall know
the truth and
the truth shall
make you free.

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ERRORS RESULTING FROM POOR BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

Jim Stauffer

Let us deal with instrumental music today. We are commanded to sing praises to God and encouragement and teaching to each other in our worship. There are virtually no passages where the command to sing is questionable in this discussion. The one most people who support instrumental music in worship turn to, is **Ephesians 5:19** which says, *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord*; The word used to support instrumental music in this text is *psallo* —which means to pluck, twitch or twang. The argument offered is that this must mean play a stringed instrument. *Psallo* is translated in the verse to the words *making melody*. Therefore we recognize we are to pluck, twitch or twang our hearts to the Lord. The only instrument here is that of the heart.

There are other passages where this word *psallo* is used. None of those passages are translated to play a musical instrument other than the voice and heart in worship to God.

In **Rom. 15:9** it is rendered, *“sing praise”*

In **1 Cor. 14:15** it is rendered *“sing”* twice

In **Jas. 5:13** it is rendered *“sing”*

The argument for *psallo* as singing is understood this way. *Psallo* is an action verb. It means to pluck or twang but does not in itself tell you what is to be plucked or twanged. Compare it to baptize which means to immerse but does not in itself tell you what to be immersed in. We learn it is water from Scripture — **John 3:3-5**; **Acts 8:38**. By the same token, **Eph. 5:19** tells us the item to be plucked is the heart. *“Making melody (psallo) in your heart”* In all the other passages the translators have rendered it sing. This tells us the word can mean simply to sing.

It is said David used the instrument in worship — **Psalms 150**

David lived under the Old Covenant and:

Offered animal sacrifices — **Psa. 66:13-15**

Purged with hyssop — **Psa. 51:7**

Used incense — **Psa. 66:15**

Danced in worship — **Psa. 149:3; 150:4**

It is said to be just an aid to improve singing. If quality is God's goal for us we should study music — not add to His command. And let us be clear adding to His

command is exactly what placing a mechanical instrument of music in the worship is. Two passages come to mind, **2 John 9** *Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. Rev. 22:18* *I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.*

There are two kinds of music — instrumental and vocal. Instrumental music is to vocal as biscuits are to unleavened bread.

It is said there are instruments in heaven. First and foremost Revelation is figurative (*signified by His angel*) — **Rev. 1:1**. Would a spiritual being have a material harp — **Rev. 5:8**? There are also white, red, black and pale horses — **Rev. 6:2-8**. There are 12 gates of pearl — **Rev. 21:21**. The street is of pure gold — **Rev. 21:21**. There is a lamb — **Rev. 5:6; 7:17**. Are we to take all of these things literally?

Another defense for mechanical music in worship is, it is not forbidden and it is enjoyable. Well, neither is pizza in the Lord's Supper or dancing in worship but do we assume authority for those because some view them as not specifically forbidden and enjoyable. **Consider Matt. 15:9**, is it not a precept of men?

A final note about instrumental music in worship. There has been objection to it at every attempt to introduce it into the worship. This was a major difference between the Roman and Greek church. Even as late as the Council of Trent (1545-1563) there was a motion made against it, though it did not carry the vote. The very fact we refer to the many times in history it was either introduced or attempted indicates it was not something that was historically a part of the church. Secular history does not show it at the end of the first century. It began to be a problem years after the death of the Apostles. Now if it had been part of the church during the time of the Apostles, it would not have to be introduced every so many years and would not see such resistance.

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1).

The fact that Jesus, the divine Son of God, was tempted *at all* is a source of wonder and bewilderment. Jesus was tempted in the flesh; the flesh hungers for bread; if Jesus was not tempted in the flesh as we are then would this really be a temptation? Jesus was *"in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15)*. Again from **Matthew four**: How could there be a mountain high enough to see *everything*? A miracle might produce such a mountain; but if a miracle was possible, then why need a mountain in the first place? How did Jesus reach the pinnacle of the temple? Did Satan transport Jesus to this high place? When the devil said, *"If you are the Son of God ...,"* was he recognizing the deity of Jesus? But the temptations are a nod to the humanity of Jesus. While we may struggle to know exactly what Matthew spoke about, we do well in being cautious in our supposing about the temptation of Jesus.

"If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread" (Matthew 4:3). What would be wrong with this? Jesus is hungry; He needs something to eat; evidently the devil believed that Jesus could have turned stones into bread. It is interesting that Jesus did not use His divine power for His own benefit. Yes, He was God in the flesh (**John 1:14**). Yet, He was on earth living in accordance with the Father's will. In living as He did, Jesus identifies with you and me. He answered the temptation by saying: *"It is written; Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4)*. This quotation from **Deuteronomy 8:3** emphasized to Israel of old that they, the *sons of God*, needed to obey God. That is what *the Son of God* did. Jesus *"learned obedience by the things which He suffered" (Hebrews 5:8)*.

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down" (Matthew 4:6). To yield to this temptation would have been putting His Father to test. When Israel cried for water at Massah, they put God to the test. The Israelites cried: *"Is the LORD among us or not?" (Exodus 17:7)*. They were demanding that God show Himself; only then would they continue their journey. They lacked faith in God. Had Jesus yielded to Satan, would it not have been a lack of faith in His Father? Jesus being *"found in fashion as a man"* walked *"by faith, not by sight."* He provides that example for us.

"All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me" (Matthew 4:9). Could Satan really have delivered on this promise? Was his promise genuine? Why this temptation? As Deity, as the Messiah, all the kingdoms of the earth already belonged to Jesus (**Psalms 2**). Evil kingdoms such as Assyria, Babylon, and Greece sought and held power,

at least for awhile. Soon, though, these kingdoms came to an end. Yet, in Matthew's gospel, Jesus is presented as *the King* who comes to deliver the people of God; He is Israel's long-awaited Messiah. Satan says: "Join with me. We will win the battle together without suffering, without the cross." But Jesus would go to the cross. Then *"the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Revelation 11:15)*. Suffering comes first; then victory. We have victory over sin, over temptation, over death. We have victory in Jesus.

Randy Harshbarger

DOCTRINAL CONFORMITY TO JESUS' TEACHING

This article is in my files. I have either failed to attribute it to the appropriate author or it did not have one at the time I saved it. For this failure of mine to properly attribute the source, I sincerely apologize. But I must print such a worthy presentation of the simple truth of Scripture.

II John verse 9 reads *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."* Since we don't have God if we don't abide in the doctrine of Christ, obviously then we won't be saved if we don't conform to his teachings. It is impossible to be saved without God, and therefore it is impossible to be saved unless we believe, teach, and practice the truth – as only the truth will make us free from sin (**John 8:31-32**).

Galatians 1:9 makes this clear in regard to teaching something different than what the Bible teaches, as it says *"As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."* Spiritually speaking, *"accursed"* would mean lost. See why it is imperative that we teach God's book accurately?

Matt 15:9 says *"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."* A commandment of men would be any religious teaching not found in God's word. This would include things like sprinkling for baptism, infant baptism, women preachers, and the like. Do you see how serious this matter is? – if we practice such things, our worship is in vain (useless, worthless), and obviously we can't go to heaven like that.

Because of this fact I urge you to be like the Bereans as described in **Acts 17:11** – *"they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."* Make sure you are not being led astray by false teaching, because *"if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Mat. 15:14)*.

Therefore, let us use Baptism as an example of teaching the doctrine of Christ. Jesus says of the Holy Spirit in **John 16:13** *...He will guide you into all the truth;* He then said in **Mark 16:16**, *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."*

Peter then guided by the Holy Spirit promised in **John 16:13** said: *"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)* Philip taught the Ethiopian Jesus, and the natural question at the appearance of water was: *..... "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36)* Baptism is taught throughout the Scriptures as a condition of salvation, forgiveness of sins. It is never, ever taught as anything other.

The obvious question is how can so many men who are considered to be Pastors and called Reverend and have been trained in the original language of the New Testament fail to teach their parishioners, members, the truth on this matter.

This is not the only one. This is the one we discuss today.

Baptism is a transliteration of the word baptize – It means to immerse, pure and simple.

Therefore sprinkling or pouring are not baptism, pure and simple.

The Religious World wants Unity. Let's start it today. We begin on this one subject. Baptism. Let's teach what the Bible teaches.

Cranky Old Man

What do you see nurses?What do you see?
What are you thinking . . . when you're looking at me?
A cranky old man,not very wise,
Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes?
Who dribbles his food and makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice . . 'I do wish you'd try!'
Who seems not to notice . . .the things that you do.
And forever is losing A sock or shoe?
Who, resisting or not lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feedingThe long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking?. .Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse ..you're not looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am As I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of Ten . . .with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters.....who love one another.
A young boy of Sixteen with wings on his feet
Dreaming that soon now a lover he'll meet.
A groom soon at Twentymy heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vowsthat I promised to keep.
At Twenty-Five, nowI have young of my own.
Who need me to guide . . . And a secure happy home.
A man of Thirty My young now grown fast,
Bound to each other . . . With ties that should last.
At Forty, my young sons...have grown and are gone,

But my woman is beside me . . to see I don't mourn.
At Fifty, once more,Babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children My loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me My wife is now dead.
I look at the future I shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing young of their own.
And I think of the years . . . And the love that I've known.
I'm now an old man and nature is cruel.
It's jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles grace and vigor, depart.
There is now a stone . . . where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass . A young man still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells
I remember the joys I remember the pain.
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years, all too few . . . gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact . . . that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, people open and see.
Not a cranky old man .

Look closer see ME!!

(Author Unknown)

Eccl. 12:1 *Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them"; 2 before the sun and the light, the moon and the stars are darkened, and clouds return after the rain; 3 in the day that the watchmen of the house tremble, and mighty men stoop, the grinding ones stand idle because they are few, and those who look through windows grow dim; 4 and the doors on the street are shut as the sound of the grinding mill is low, and one will arise at the sound of the bird, and all the daughters of song will sing softly. 5 Furthermore, men are afraid of a high place and of terrors on the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags himself along, and the caperberry is ineffective. For man goes to his eternal home while mourners go about in the street. 6 Remember Him before the silver cord is broken and the golden bowl is crushed, the pitcher by the well is shattered and the wheel at the cistern is crushed; 7 then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. 8 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "all is vanity!"*

Brethren, I hope we will appreciate the wisdom provided for us by our elderly who once walked where we are, thought as we do, sacrificed as we will and learned the true meaning of life by consulting the mind of our Creator as He has revealed it in his word. jcs.

Eph. 2:19 *So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;*

1Pet. 2:9 *But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

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REMEMBER WITH BOTH PRAYERS AND VISITS, J.R. DANIEL, GRANT CLOTHIER AND JAN PATRICK. ALSO THE GRANDSON OF RON AND JANE PECK, J.T. PECK, AS HE RECOVERS AT HOME.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS - A STUDY IN PRAYER - RON PECK; WEDNESDAY CLASS - BOOK OF ROMANS - JIM STAUFFER.

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON- THE JOY OF SALVATION



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10