

The Privilege Of Worship

“I was glad when they said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the
LORD!’” Psalm 122:1

Singing, As Worship

- Historically, Always Been A Question
- Not Introduced Until Late In The First Millennium A.D.
- Always Caused Splits Everywhere It Was Introduced
- Everywhere Introduced It Became The Focal Point

Consider The “Iron Clad” Arguments

- It Was Used In The Old Testament
- It Was Used In The Book Of Revelation
- It Doesn't Say We Can't
- It Is Not A Salvation Issue
- It Helps The Song Service: An Aid
- It Warms My Heart

Some Thoughts About Authority

- John 4:23,24 – God Seeks “Spirit & Truth”
Worship
- Galatians 1:9-12 – Worship Must Be Based
On What Is Revealed
- 1 Peter 4:11 – We Must Speak The Oracles
Of God

A Test Case: Leviticus 10:1,2

- The Setting: God Had Given Great Details As To How Tabernacle Worship Should Be Done
- The Aaronic Priesthood Was Set In Order
- The First Day Of Worship Was To Begin
- “Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.
(Lev 10:1-2)

Let Us Consider The Arguments

- It Was Used In The Old Testament
 - Admittedly It Was Used In The Old Testament
 - Never Mentioned In The Pentateuch (1st 5 Books)
 - Amos 6:5 Indicates That David Added It – “Who sing idly to the sound of the stringed instruments, and invent for yourselves musical instruments like David.”
- God Did Not Necessarily Ordain It, But He Did Legislate On It
 - E.g. Divorce, Re-Marriage – Matthew 19:8,9
 - E.g. Polygamy – Exodus 21:10

Revelation's Use Of The Instrument

- There Will Be "Harps" In Heaven
- Highly Symbolic "Apocalyptic" Literature
- Just Because It Is In Heaven, Doesn't Mean It Can Be Used In The Church
 - Incense In Heaven – Revelation 5:8; 8:3,4
 - Not Giving And Taking In Marriage In Heaven – Matthew 22:30
 - Street Of Gold In Heaven

It Doesn't Say We Can't!

- Consider God's Law Of Exclusion
 - Noah: "Gopher Wood" – Genesis 6:14
 - Moses: "After The Pattern" – Exodus 25:40, cf. Hebrews 8:5
 - God Does Not Have To Say What He Does Not Want, Only What He Wants
- E.g. My Dad's Law Of Exclusion When It Came To Buying A Gallon Of Milk
- What Would Our Worship Look Like If We Took An "It Doesn't Say We Can't" Mentality?

It Is Not A Salvation Issue

- “For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.”
Romans 14:23;10:17
- When Jeroboam Added To Israel’s Worship It
Caused Israel To Sin – 1 Kings 14:16
- Conscience Issues: Additions To Corporate Settings
Forces Everyone To Be Involved – Acts 24:16
- It Tests The Mercy & Grace Of God – Romans 6:1,2
- It Is Going Beyond That Which Is Written –
1 Corinthians 4:6

It Helps The Singing: An Aid

- Sometime Compared To A Song Book
 - When Introduced It Often Replaces Singing
 - It Is An Addition To The Service
 - Songbooks Should Be Compared To Any Inanimate Object That Gives Aid: The Building, The Furniture, Our Clothing
 - The Instrument Is By Nature Intrusive
- Some Interpret The Word "Psallo" As Plucking An Instrument
 - We Are Told What Instrument To Pluck – "make melody in our hearts" "*psallo hay kardia*" Eph. 5:19

It Warms My Heart

- Is The Heart A Safe Guide In Worship?
- Sins Of Heart-Led Worship – Jeroboam –
1 Kings 11-14
- Our Hearts Need Training
- Our Hearts Are Warmed When We Worship
God According To How He Prescribes It

We Are To Sing!

- Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
- Ephesians 5:19 – “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart”
- James 5:13 – “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.”
- When God Binds, Man Is Freed To Follow God’s Lead
- It Is A Command

The Best Proof

God Said It . . .

. . . That Settles It