

Redwater Restorer

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness..." (Matthew 3:3)

Volume 3

No.9

July 1st, 2006

Singing In Worship

Published By:

Redwater
Church of Christ

Services:

Sunday
Bible Class 10:00 a.m.
AM Worship 10:45 a.m.
PM Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Address:

P.O.Box 229
Redwater, Tx. 75573

Phone:

(903) 671-2369
(903) 671-2515

E-Mail:

MILBY2@JUNO.COM

Edited By:

Mark Miller

Works:

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Lectures
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There are two different kinds of music: vocal and instrumental. God has spoken in the New Testament concerning the kind of music we must use if we expect to worship Him in spirit and in truth, and that is singing. Singing is the limit of God's command. God nowhere in the New Testament authorized mechanical instruments of music to be used in worship of the church. A mechanical instrument of music cannot worship God. Only with our voices can we sing praises to God. God does not wish to be worshipped with a lifeless instrument.

People today may think that it makes no difference if they add to the worship authorized by God. In the Old Testament we have the example of Nadab and Abihu who were presumptuous in their thinking that it made no difference. Open your Bible and read Leviticus 10:1-2, then compare this text with Leviticus 16:12-13. Why was Nadab and Abihu struck dead? They had decided to do it their own way and get the coals of fire somewhere else. They offered unauthorized fire. They died a horrible death because they did something God did not authorize. They were **presumptuous**. God will not tolerate substitutes for His divine way. God is very particular about the way He wants things done. Just as Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire, is there any excuse for us to offer unauthorized mechanical instrumental music to the Lord?

According to Webster, **presumptuous** means, "to take upon oneself without permission or authority, taking too much for granted, showing overconfidence, arrogance." Being presumptuous as far as God is concerned is a sin. Psalms 19:13 says, "*Keep back your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.*" So we see we can also be guilty of presumptuous sins when we "take upon ourselves without permission or authority" of God and add mechanical instruments of music to our worship. We may not think it will make any difference, but Nadab and Abihu thought the same thing. In speaking of people who are displeasing to God, 2 Peter 2:10 says, "*They are presumptuous, self-willed.*"

Some may say, "The Bible does not say not to use mechanical instruments of music in worship." But again are we permitted to be so presumptuous? If so we could add anything else without His authority. The Bible tells us we are to use the bread and the fruit of the vine in commemorating the Lord's Supper. Someone might say, "The Bible does not say we can't also use chocolate cake and milk." But, rational people know it would be absurd to use it. It is just as absurd to use the same type of reasoning to justify the use of instrumental music in worship.

When God gives a command to do something, does He have to say, but don't do this, and don't do this, etc.? No. When God tells us what He wants done, He expects us to do it that way. God's commands are both inclusive and exclusive. His commands include everything He specifies and they exclude everything He has not authorized. Confining ourselves to what God has authorized is very important if we expect to please Him and go to heaven.

If we add mechanical instruments of music to the worship of God then we have added to God's word. In the closing words of the New Testament we are warned not to add to His word. In Revelation 22:18, "*If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.*"

The use of mechanical instruments of music in worship does make a difference, because God has never permitted man to devise the plan or means for his worship of God. This is very serious, because we will lose our souls through presumptuous sins just as Nadab and Abihu lost their lives through their presumptuous sins.

Questions Concerning Singing In Worship

1) (Leviticus 10:1-2) What happened when Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire in worship to God?

- Nothing.
- God was well pleased.
- Fire came down from the Lord and they died.

2) Nadab and Abihu died because they did not worship God as He directed.

True False

3) (Leviticus 16:12-13) Where had God commanded Nadab and Abihu to get the coals of fire to burn the daily incense?

- From their own campfire.
- From under the altar of burnt offerings.
- Anywhere they could find them.

4) God will tolerate our substitutes for His divine will. True False

5) (Psalms 19:13) Being presumptuous as far as God is concerned is

- Sin.
- All right if we are sincere.
- Doesn't really matter.

6) We are guilty of presumptuous sin when we take upon ourselves without God's authority things that pertain to worship.

True False

7) (Revelation 22:18) If anyone adds to God's word

- It will be all right if he is sincere.
- Nothing will ever be done about it.
- "God will add to him the plagues written in this book."

8) It is all right if we add to God's word by doing things we want to do.

True False

If you are interested in any of the following please check the appropriate box and mail to the address below. Please include return address and phone number if possible.

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Home Correspondence Course

Redwater Church of Christ
P.O.Box 229
Redwater, Tx. 75573