

The Church, Her Bulwarks and Her Palaces #4

by Danny Brown

14. *The first century church under the oversight of the Apostles did not use instruments of music in their worship.* “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” (Eph 5:19) “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.” (Col 3:16) Let me mention two reasons why instruments of music were not used in the worship. First, the use of instrumental music is without authority. All that Christians do in worship must be authorized by Christ. “And whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col 2:17) In absence of any command from Jesus for the use of mechanical instrument in worship, we cannot use them by His authority, or in His name.

Second, it makes worship vain. Jesus said regarding the Scribes and Pharisees, “But in vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men.” (Matt 15:8) According to Jesus, the worship of the Pharisees was vain, because it was based on the commandments of men. The same principle applies in the church. Instrumental music is a human innovation which man has introduced into the worship without divine authority. Worship that Christians are to engage in is to be “in Spirit and truth.” (John 4:24) Any act of worship which springs from the traditions of men is vain. Thus any church using instrumental music in its worship is not the church we read about in the Bible.

15. *The church we read about in the Bible is a glorious church. When viewed from its divine side it is absolutely perfect.* From the human side it is made up of men and women who have:

1. Washed away their sins. (Acts 22:16)
2. Been redeemed and forgiven in the blood of Christ. (Eph 1:7)
3. Been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus. (1 Cor 6:10)
4. Been washed from their own sins in the blood of the Lamb. (Rev 1:5)
5. Been adopted by the Father as His children. (Eph 1:5)
6. Been Cleansed by Christ with the washing of water with the word. (Eph 5:26)
7. Been blessed of the Father with all spiritual blessings. (Eph 1:3)
8. Hope of eternal life. (Titus 1:2)
9. A high standard, the Word of God, by which they walk.

We do recognize that there are some bad apples in every barrel. In the church there are some who claim membership who were never converted, there are others who have left their first love. Jesus Christ told us the church was like a net that gathered of every kind, but at the end of the world: “the angels would come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” (Matt 13:47-50). We believe that the members of the church are the finest and best people on earth.

16. *The church of which Jesus Christ is the founder, foundation and head has an eternal destiny:* “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” (Eph 5:23) “That he might present it to

himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph 5:27) "Then cometh the end, when he (Christ, db) shall have delivered up the kingdom (the church, db) to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power." (1 Cor 15:24) Christians, that constitute the body of Christ, the church, have a destiny - heaven. (1 Pet 1:4, 5; Matt 25:46)

Conclusion

It is not our desire or aim to build or establish a new church or denomination, there are already way too many in existence. It is our aim to restore or build again the church with all the God-given identifying characteristics (bulwarks) we read about in the Bible. It is our hope by planting the seed, the Word of God, to build again nothing more and nothing less than the glorious church of which Jesus Christ is the head. There are several Bible reasons for doing this; two of which are: First: That the world may behold the many sided (manifold) wisdom of God. If you wish to see man's wisdom look at the churches men have built. If you wish to see God's wisdom look at the bulwarks of the church He built. (Eph 3:10) Second: That God may be glorified by and in what we build. Paul said, "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end." (Eph 3:21)