

Some Great Men Speak Concerning Instrumental Music in Worship (Selected)

John Wesley, when asked about the use of the organ replied, "I have no opposition to the organ in our chapel provided it is neither seen nor heard." (Adam Clark's Commentary, Vol. IV, Page 868).

Adam Clark, a Methodist, and author of a very fine commentary said: "I am an old man, and an old minister; and I here declare that I never knew them to be productive of any good in the worship of God; and have had reason to believe that they were productive of much evil. Music, as a science, I esteem and admire; but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor." (Clark's Commentary, Vol. IV, Page 686).

Charles Spurgeon, a Baptist, preached for twenty years in the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle in London, England. Instruments of music were never used in the tabernacle. When asked why he did not use the organ in worship he gave 1 Cor. 14:15 as his answer and said, "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," and remarked, "I would as soon pray to God with machinery as to sing to God with machinery."

John Calvin says: "Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law. The Papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this, as well as many other things from the Jew. Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in that noise: but the simplicity which God recommends to us by the apostles is far more pleasing to Him. Paul allows us to bless God in the public assembly of the saints, only in a known tongue (1 Cor. 14:16). What shall we say then of the chanting, which fills the ear with nothing by an empty sound?" (Commentary of Psalms 33).

Alexander Campbell, "But I presume to all spiritually-minded Christians, such aids would be as a cowbell in a concert." (Memoirs of A. Campbell, Page 366).

Of more importance than the testimony of these men is the inspired testimony of the scriptures: "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). "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." (1 Cor. 14:15). "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him SING psalms." (Jas. 5:13).

The command within these verses is to SING, and no mention of an instrument can be found. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. If any man shall ADD UNTO THESE THINGS, GOD SHALL ADD UNTO HIM THE PLAGUES THAT ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK". (Rev. 22:18).