# Musical Instruments in the Church

## A Cause and Symptom of Perilous Times

# Goals for Church Music

- Our worship … must be in spirit (internal) and in truth (John 4:20-24).
- Our worship … must be scriptural with clear authority (II Tim 3:16-17).
- Our worship … must be apostolic in origin and design (II Thess 2:15).
- Our worship … must be reverent with godly fear (Heb 12:28-29).
- Our worship … cannot befriend the world (Jas 4:4; I Jn 2:15; Mat 6:24).
- Our worship … cannot tolerate perilous times (II Tim 3:1-5; 4:1-4).

# The Issue (1)

- The issue is <u>not</u> musical instruments themselves.
- The issue is <u>not</u> instrumental music in other places.
- The issue is <u>not</u> whether musicians have a gift from God.
- The issue is <u>not</u> what Israel did under David in the Old Testament.
- The issue is <u>not</u> what may or may not occur in heaven after this life.
- The issue is: <u>What has God specified for New Testament worship?</u>

# The Issue (2)

- The issue is <u>not</u> whether music is a powerful medium to the soul.
- The issue is <u>not</u> whether music is a powerful medium to the body.
- The issue is <u>not</u> whether music can generate incredible feelings.
- The issue is <u>not</u> whether loud instrumental music is popular today.
- The issue is <u>not</u> whether devils respond to instrumental music.
- The issue is: <u>What has God specified for New Testament worship?</u>

# The Issue (3)

- The issue is not cost – we could afford a top-end sound system.
- The issue is not musicians – we have some to easily rock the place.
- The issue is not intelligence – we know what would bring the world.
- The issue is not marketing – we know area residents would love it.
- The issue is not denominational – we can do anything we desire.
- The issue is: What has God specified for New Testament worship?

# The Issue (4)

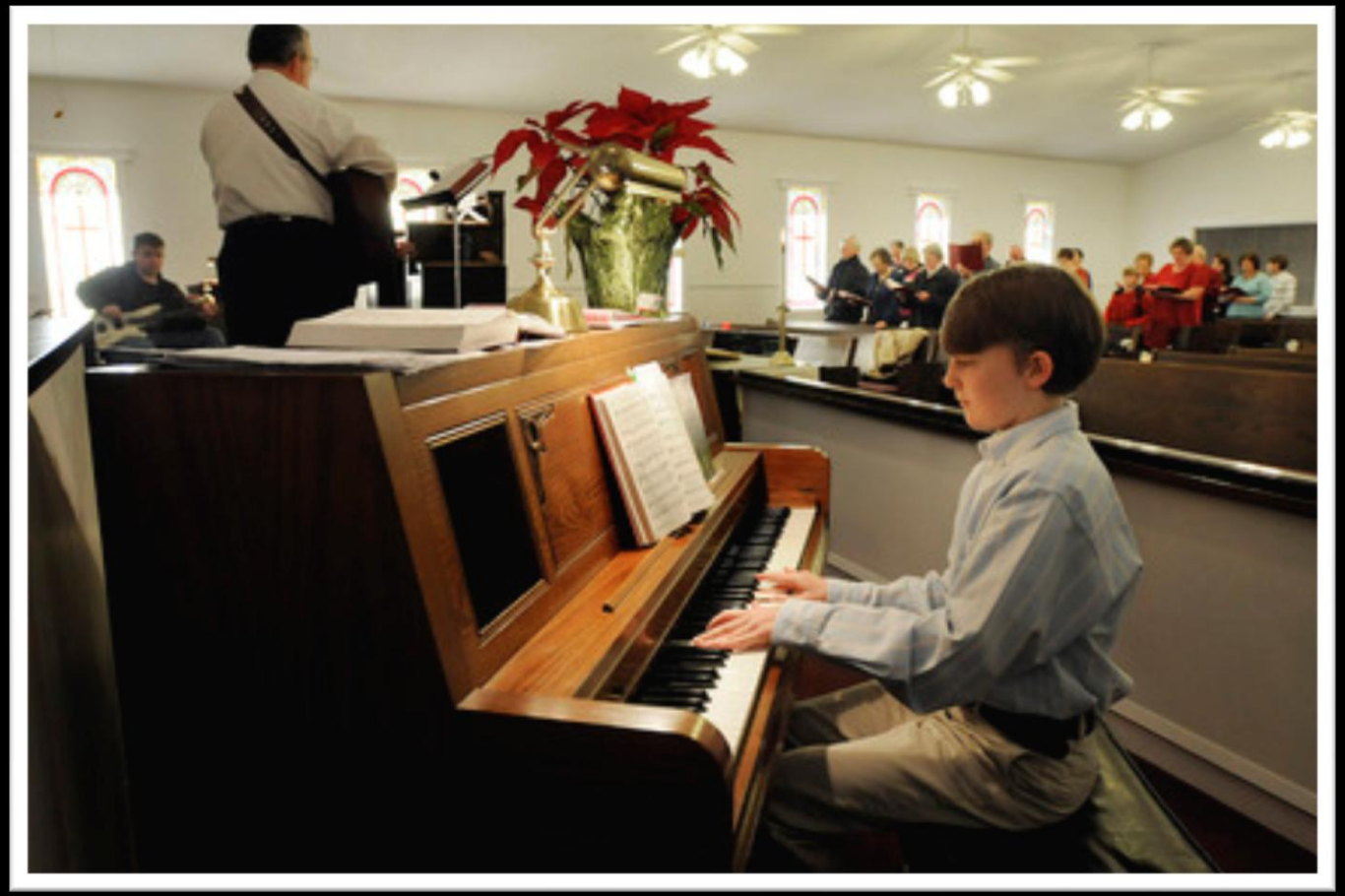
- The issue is <u>not</u> what the Primitive Baptists do, for we are not P.B.
- The issue is <u>not</u> what the Church of Christ denomination does.
- The issue is <u>not</u> tradition or habit, for our church started in 1980.
- The issue is <u>not</u> merely church history, for we are Bible Christians.
- The issue is <u>not</u> to be different or exclusive (I Cor 9:19-23; 10:31-33).
- The issue is: <u>What has God specified for New Testament worship?</u>

# Primitive Baptist Singing School - 1903

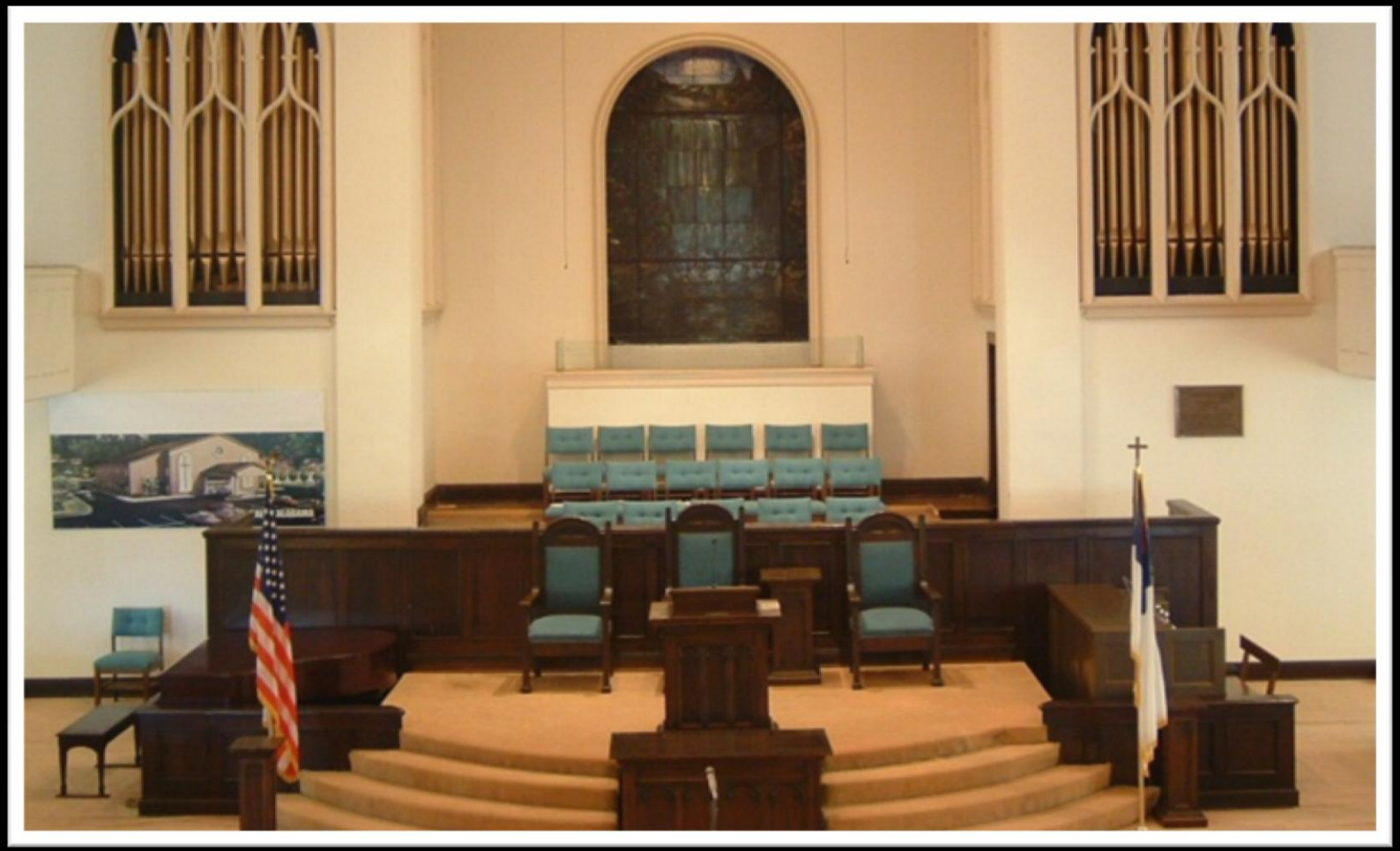
# Church with No Musical Instruments

# Church with a Piano

# Church with Addition of Guitar



# Church with Addition of Organ



# Church with Addition of Drums

# Church Turned into Nightclub

# The New Evangelists

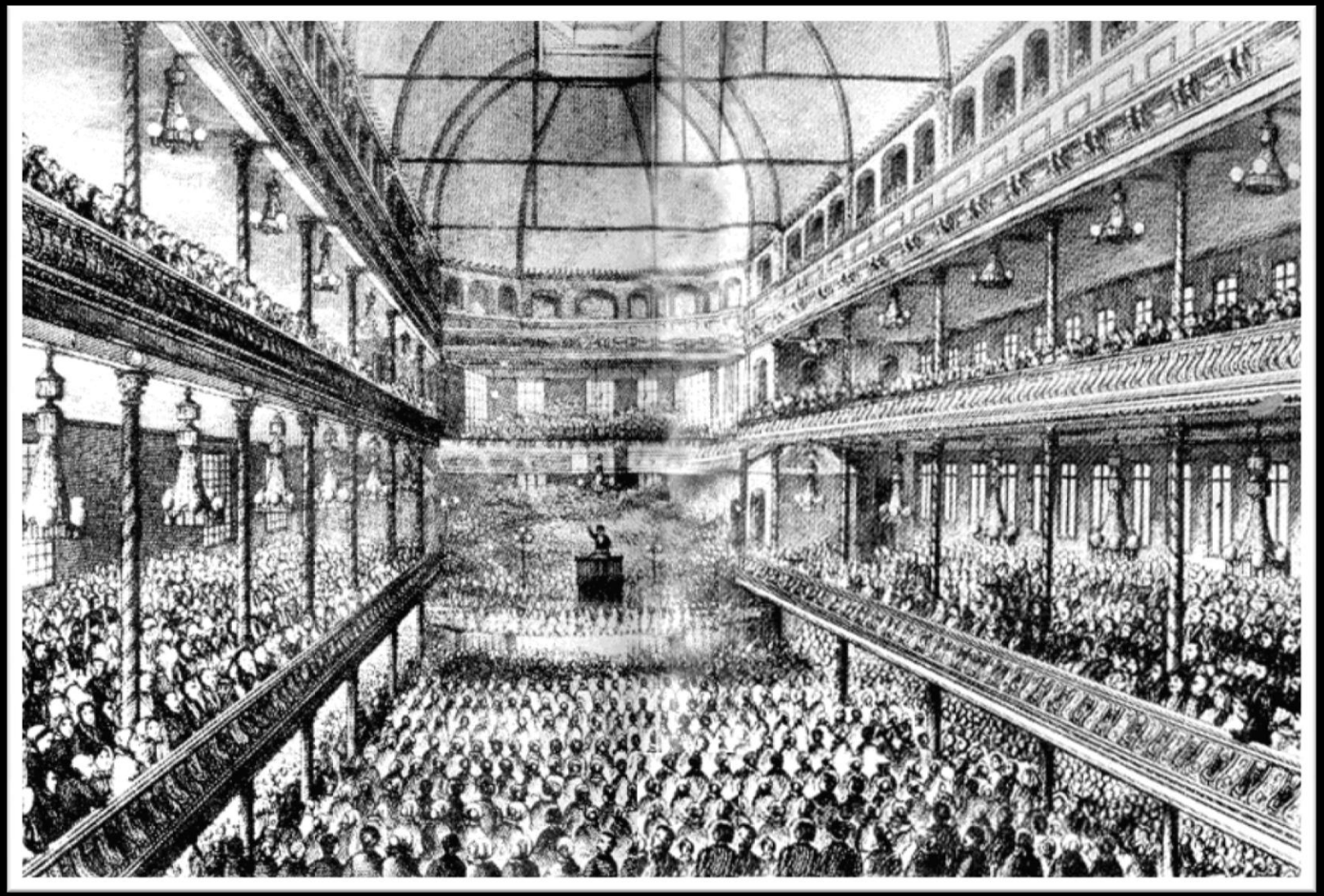
# Church Turned into Nightclub

# The New Pastoral Staff

# Fast & Furious – from Piano to Nightclub!

# Fast & Furious – from Piano to Nightclub!

# Fast & Furious – from Preacher to Punk!



# Fast & Furious – from Preacher to Punk!

# Fast & Furious – from Preacher to Punk!

# It Started with a Piano!

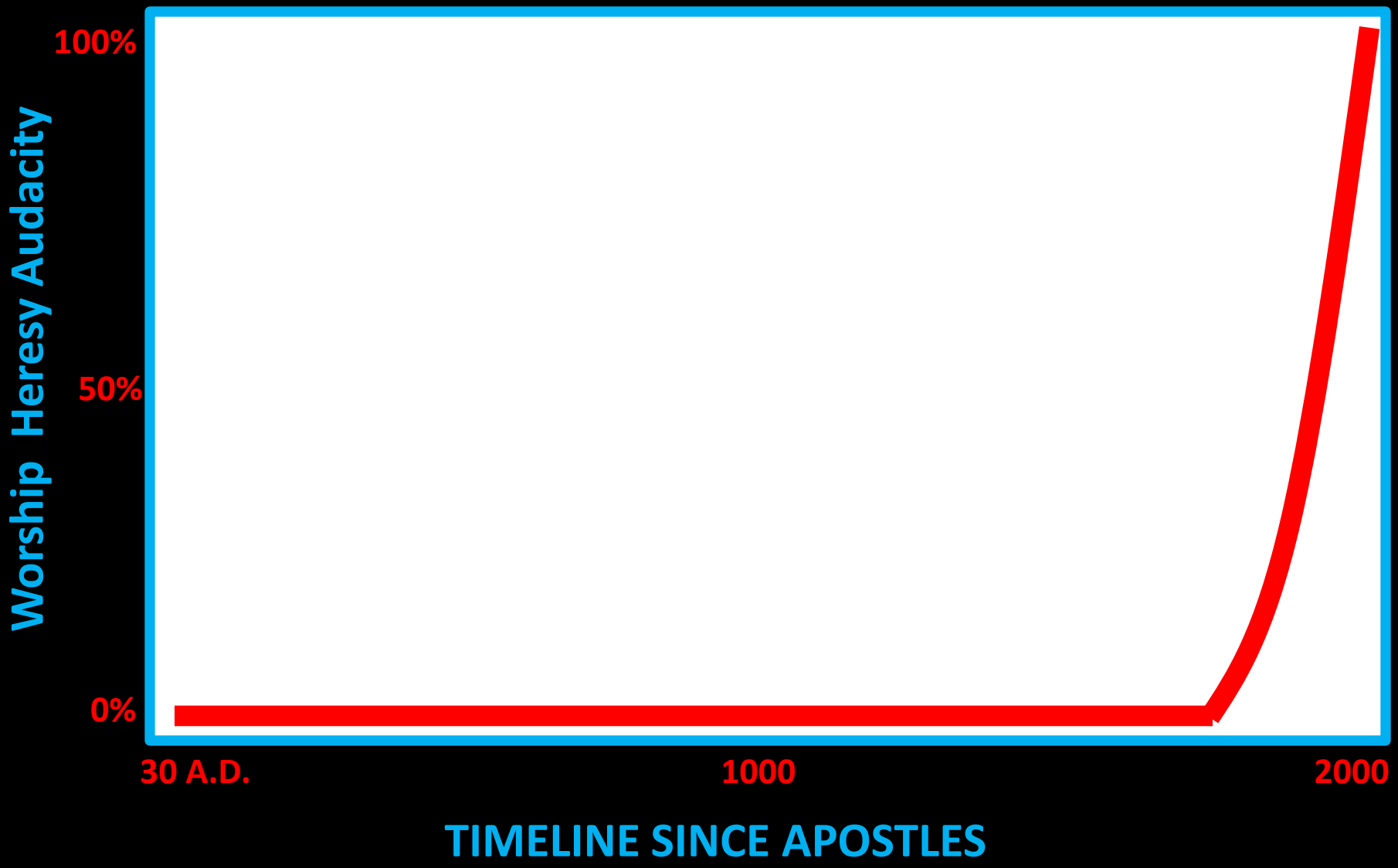
# Fast & Furious – from Piano to Nightclub!

| | |
|---|---|
| 30 A.D. | Singing only … without Jewish or pagan instruments. |
| 1840 A.D. | First organ in any Baptist church (Pawtucket, R.I.) |
| 1900 A.D. | First special music in any Baptist church (estimated) |
| 1950 A.D. | First guitar or drum set in any Baptist church (est.) |
| 1980 A.D. | First rock band imitation in any Baptist church (est.) |
| 2010 A.D. | Anything goes; louder the better; strobe lights, smoke. |

# Fast & Furious – Lot's Compromise!

| | |
|---|---|
| Started here | Pitched his tent toward Sodom (Gen 13:12-13). |
| 1 year | Moved into Sodom for better schools and jobs. |
| 2 year | First daughter married good Christian Sodom boy. |
| 3 year | Two more daughters marry worldly Sodom boys. |
| 4 year | Wife and two remaining daughters join Sodom gym. |
| Ended here | Wife to salt; all lost; incest with daughters; caveman! |

# Fast & Furious – Heresy on the Rise



# The Bible Is a Closed System

- We cannot add to or take away from God's word (Deut 4:32; 12:32).
- We cannot turn to either the right or left hand from it (Deut 5:32).
- We cannot add to or take away from Christ's commands (Mat 28:20).
- We must follow the apostles as taught and shown (II Thess 2:15; 3:6).
- Christian Liberty does not apply to any matter God has addressed.
- A positive command in any matter prohibits any variations of it.

# God Greatly Cares About Details

- Jesus' religion stands on the least commandments (Mat 5:19; 23:23).
- Cain was rejected along with his worship for an alteration (Ge 4:1-5).
- Moses was rejected from Canaan for a minor alteration (Nu 20:7-12).
- Nadab and Abihu were burned alive for altering worship (Lev 10:1-7).
- David loved praise, but a man died for altering worship (II Sa 6:1-11).
- Uzziah died with facial leprosy for altering worship (II Chr 26:16-23).

# Every N.T. Reference to Church Music

- Jesus and the apostles sang a hymn and went out (Matt 26:30).
- Jesus and the apostles sang a hymn and went out (Mark 14:26).
- Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God (Acts 16:25).
- Prophecy of Gentiles glorifying God and singing to Him (Ro 15:9).
- I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also (I Co 14:15).
- Speak to yourselves by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with a melody in your heart to the Lord (Eph 5:19).
- Teaching one another by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with grace in your hearts to the Lord (Col 3:16).
- In the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee (Heb 2:12).
- Is any merry? Let him sing psalms (James 5:13).

# Does the Bible Know Play?

- King Saul's servants sought a cunning player for him (I Sam 16:16).
- King Saul called for a man that could play well (I Sam 16:17).
- David was cunning in playing and a mighty man (I Sam 16:18).
- Women played instruments comparing Saul and David (I Sam 18:7).
- David and all Israel played all manner of instruments (II Sam 6:5).
- David and all Israel played with all their might (I Chron 13:8).
- David wrote for Israel to play skilfully with a loud noise (Ps 33:3).
- Singers went before; players on instruments followed (Ps 68:25).
- Among them were the damsels playing with timbrels (Ps 68:25).
- Both singers and players on instruments were there (Ps 87:7).
- Ezekiel was seen as one to play well on an instrument (Ezek 33:32).

# Does the Bible Know Instruments?

| | |
|---|---|
| **Harp** (Gen 4:21) | **Flute** (Dan 3:5) |
| **Organ** (Gen 4:21) | **Sackbut** (Dan 3:5) |
| **Trumpet** (Ex 19:13) | **Pipe** (I Cor 14:7) |
| **Tabret** (I Sam 18:6) | **Ten Strings** (Ps 33:2) |
| **Psaltery** (II Sam 6:5) | **Dulcimer** (Dan 3:5) |
| **Cymbal** (II Sam 6:5) | **Cornet** (II Sam 6:5) |
| **Timbrel** (II Sam 6:5) | **Viol** (Amos 6:5) |

# The Big Three – I Corinthians 14:15

"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" (I Cor 14:15).

- N.T. music requires the part that relates to God … *spirit,* not body.
- N.T. music requires the part that thinks … *the mind,* not the body.
- Even inspiration by the Spirit was to be subordinate to the mind.
- Instruments are unrelated to both spirit and the understanding.
- If we can fulfill singing by a machine, then we can praying as well!

# The Big Three – Ephesians 5:19

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph 5:19).

- N.T. music is congregational singing … *"to yourselves."*
- N.T. music emphasizes the lyrics or words … *"speaking."*
- N.T. music uses psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
- N.T. music is singing (mouth melody) with a heart melody.
- Instruments have no heart for the melody or lyrics for the teaching.

# The Big Three – Colossians 3:16

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).

- N.T. music is congregational singing … *"one another."*
- N.T. music emphasizes the words … *"teaching and admonishing."*
- N.T. music uses psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.
- N.T. music is singing (mouth melody) with a heart full of grace.
- Instruments have no word of Christ, wisdom, grace, or teaching.

# Reason #1 … Bible Commands Singing (1)

- All 9 references to N.T. church music state singing, never playing.
- N.T. epistles tell us exactly what to do (I Tim 3:15; II Tim 3:16-17; Tit 1:5).
- N.T. epistles carefully detail church music twice (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16).
- The O.T. knew playing and instruments, but none were carried over.
- Since the two covenants differ greatly, we should not blend them.
- If we are Bible Christians, there is no option. God's will is stated.

# Reason #1 … Bible Commands Singing (2)

- If we are Bible Christians, there is no option. God's will is stated.
- We have no more right to play than Moses did to strike the rock.
- What shall we do? Be the first Baptists with priests from the O.T.?
- What shall we do? Add cheese and salami to the bread and wine?
- Those that fear the Lord will reject any alteration to His commands.
- This is a great test of a church's or person's spiritual character.

# Reason #1 … Bible Commands Singing (3)

| BIBLE COMMAND | PERSON / VOICE | INSTRUMENT |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| Sing with spirit (I Cor 14:15) | Can | Cannot |
| Sing with understanding | Can | Cannot |
| Speak (Eph 5:19) | Can | Cannot |
| Make melody in heart | Can | Cannot |
| Teach (Col 3:16) | Can | Cannot |
| Admonish (Col 3:16) | Can | Cannot |
| Word of Christ and wisdom | Can | Cannot |
| Grace in heart | Can | Cannot |

# Reason #2 … God Detailed His Will (1)

- The Bible's closed system rules out any variations to singing.
- Positive commands rule out additions, subtractions, alterations.
- We cannot offer *strange fire* or risk being burned up (Lev 10:1-7).
- A new ox cart not after *the due order* caused a *breach* (I Ch 15:13).
- We do no more or no less than what Jesus taught to do (Matt 28:20).
- God knew all about playing instruments and totally ignored them.

# Reason #2 … God Detailed His Will (2)

- The Bible's closed system rules out any variations to singing.
- God condemned the argument from silence (Heb 7:13-14; Mat 12:3-4).
- Why could no man from Judah be a priest? God ordained Levi.
- Why could David not eat the shewbread? God gave it to priests.
- God does not list all sinful options; His positive word is enough.
- If you miss this point, you have no Bible limit for most inventions.

# Reason #3 … Music Must Be Internal

- God seeks those worshipping Him in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:20-24).
- Singing detailed by Paul results from Holy Spirit filling (Eph 5:18).
- Musical instruments first affect the body – watch a child's toe tap.
- Musical instruments then affect the emotions – march or dirge.
- Musical instruments enter the ear, not the mind for instruction.
- Musical instruments are carnal, external, sensual like the O.T.

# Reason #4 … Music Must Be Intelligent

- God seeks those that will subordinate even His Spirit to the mind.
- Tongues, a gift of the Spirit, were forbidden w/o interpretation.
- Musical instruments make a variety of noises w/o interpretation.
- Singing is done by the understanding and to the understanding.
- Speaking, teaching, admonishing must be done (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16).
- Instruments are not intelligent and do not convey information.

# Reason #5 … Music Must Be Hearty

- N.T. church music begins with a melody in the heart (Eph 5:19).
- N.T. church music begins with grace in the heart (Col 3:16).
- N.T. church music begins with Christ's word and wisdom (Col 3:16).
- Instruments do not have a heart and cannot function as a heart.
- Instruments have their own melody separate from heart and grace.
- Instruments do not know God, and they cannot alone point to Him.

# Reason #6 … Church History (1)

- Like other doctrinal issues, churches today contradict history.
- The first organ in a Baptist church in the world was 1840 (Benedict).
- Not even Catholics introduced instruments until the 8th century!
- And they were not widespread in Catholic churches until the 13th!
- The Protestant fathers and Reformation heroes abominated them.
- Spurgeon 120 yrs ago rejected them for his mega church (20,000).

# Reason #6 … Church History (2)

- Reformed and Protestants revere history, but we are in line with it!
- They are ignorant of it … Calvin saw instruments childish of O.T.!
- Calvin compared musical instruments to an unknown tongue.
- Martin Luther considered the organ the "ensign of Baal."
- John Wesley thought pianos should neither be seen nor heard.
- Spurgeon thought they justified starting to pray by machinery!

# Reason #6 … Church History (3)

- These links have many quotations for the history of church music.
- All major denominations are represented by preachers/historians.
- http://www.bible.ca/H-music.htm
- http://www.piney.com/MuHistor.html
- History does not prove doctrine, but it can help confirm doctrine.
- What was once delivered to the saints? Singing or instruments?

# Reason #7 … By Their Fruits (1)

- Musical instruments go hand in hand with wholesale changes.
- Consider RCC holidays, flags, prophetic heresy, grape juice, etc.
- They are part of the decline of Christianity of the perilous times.
- As instruments increase the sound doctrine declines accordingly.
- As instruments for the flesh increase, holy living shrinks in degree.
- If music were ended at mega churches, they would close quickly.

# Reason #7 … By Their Fruits (2)

- Rick Warren, who has done the most harm, knows music is crucial!
- Not just any music! It must be loud worldly music that can be felt!
- The carnal atmosphere is opposite reverence and godly fear.
- The carnal, fleshly, worldly, and vulgar are much more pronounced.
- Measure by their modesty, sobriety, humility, language, holiness.
- Measure by their love of scripture and hatred of the world. Do it!

# Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs (1)

- A psalm is clearly the pieces of poetry written by David and Asaph.
- A hymn is a musical composition addressed to God or about God.
- A spiritual song is any other song about aspects of Christian life.
- We deny radical Presbyterians and others that sing only Psalms.
- They reject any songs, including the songs of Moses and the Lamb!
- They reject uninspired lyrics, but they do not pray inspired prayers!

# Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs (2)

- A psalm is clearly the pieces of poetry written by David and Asaph.
- They are identified as psalms by the Spirit (Act 1:20; 13:33; Luk 20:42).
- We deny that all three kinds of lyrics are redundantly only Psalms.
- Scottish Psalter of 1650 helps sing KJV psalms to common meter.
- Without a psalter it is difficult to sing many verses of many psalms.
- David wrote psalms of praise, prayer, prophecy, precepts, etc.

# Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs (3)

- A hymn is a musical composition addressed to God or about God.
- They are often in the second person clearly addressed to God.
- They are often more reverent and worshipful than spiritual songs.
- We have the Trinity Hymnal for its large number of hymns.
- Examples include "Praise to the Lord" and "How Great Thou Art."
- Also: "Be Thou My Vision," "Doxology," "Spirit of the Living God."

# Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs (4)

- A spiritual song is any other song about aspects of Christian life.
- They are often less reverent and worshipful than hymns to God.
- We have the Old School Hymnal of the P.B.'s for spiritual songs.
- "Happy Birthday" or "The Star Spangled Banner"? Never in church.
- Examples are "Count Your Blessings" and "Sweet By and By."
- Also: "Broad is the Road," "Charity," "Just the Same Today," etc.

# How Do They Justify This?

# And This?

# BUT #1 … David Used Instruments (1)

- Yes, the Bible has instruments in the Old Testament under Moses.
- God's approval for a time, place, or situation does not apply to all.
- O. T. worship changed (Luke 16:16; John 4:20-24; Col 2:16-17; Heb 9:1-10).
- Moses was to <u>strike</u> (Ex 17:5-6) then <u>speak</u> (Nu 20:7-8). Timing is key!
- Will you also argue for burnt offerings, priests, test of jealousy, shewbread, polygamy, scapegoats, dowry, brass serpents, pots of manna, tokens of virginity, Urim and Thummim, no pork, etc., etc.?

# BUT #1 … David Used Instruments (2)

- Psalm 150? Where should the church dance with their cymbals?
- Psalm 81? Should we blow trumpets in the new moon (Col 2:16)?
- Will DHEC allow burnt sacrifices of bullocks with goats (Ps 66:15)?
- The N.T. declares the O.T. childish, carnal, beggarly, worldly, weak.
- N.T. worship is internal, spiritual; O.T. worship is external, sensual.
- There is no N.T. hint at the use of any instruments at all in church.

# BUT #1 … David Used Instruments (3)

| DAVID USED | O.T. POSITION | N.T. POSITION |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| Priests | Aaron's sons from Levi | Jesus is the only priest |
| | | |
| Animal sacrifices for sin | Commanded in detail | Ended by death of Jesus |
| | | |
| Many wives | Allowed | Not allowed (I Tim 3:2) |
| | | |
| **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS** | **INSPIRED BY GOD** | **SING; NO INSTRUMENTS** |

# BUT #2 … N.T. Does Not Condemn Them (1)

- They argue like this: *anything not condemned is implicitly allowed*.
- This is the argument from silence, and it is invalid in the Bible.
- The Bible is a closed system: positive precepts cannot be altered.
- A positive command excludes addition, subtraction, or alteration.
- If anything not condemned is allowed … then most anything goes!
- The N.T. does not condemn Coke and chips for the Lord's Supper!

# BUT #2 … N.T. Does Not Condemn Them (2)

- The N.T. does not condemn infant sprinkling with salt in the mouth!
- The N.T. does not condemn lesbian pastors taking male hormones!
- Why was it wrong for Moses to smite the rock since he had before?
- Why not move the Ark on a new ox cart, since the Philistines did?
- Why was it wrong for King Uzziah to offer incense in the temple?
- Where does this thinking stop? Can we do anything we want to?

# BUT #3 … Heaven Has Instruments

- This argument is based on finding Revelation 5:8; 14:2-3; 15:2.
- This argument, like the O.T. one, proves far more than wanted.
- Should we stop marrying, since there is none in heaven (Mat 22:30)?
- Should we take the rest of the signs in the book just as literal?
- Where are we taught to look to heaven to guide earthly conduct?
- In a glorified state and environment, there will be no carnal effect.

# BUT #4 … All Gifts Should Be Used for God

- *"I am a 5-talent musician, and I need to use it!"* (Matt 25:14-30).
- This is what Cain thought about his profession of farmer. Think!
- Observe once again that the pitiful argument proves far too much.
- Where will it stop? Should sculptors create statues like Bezaleel?
- Powerlifting has not made the Olympics, but maybe the church?
- How about jugglers, truly a gift, serving communion elements?

# BUT #5 … Instruments Are Only an Aid

- They find our use of aids vs. additions and claim it for themselves.
- When they cannot think of other arguments, they try to steal ours.
- This argument compares instruments to hymnals, pews, notes, etc.
- Aids allowed by God do not affect the nature of the commandment.
- Playing is not singing; it drastically changes the specified worship.
- Instruments cannot sing, speak, teach, admonish (Ep 5:19; Col 3:16).

# BUT #6 … I Don't See Anything Wrong

- You are guilty of ignorant worship like the Athenians (Act 17:22-23).
- God has carefully specified exactly what kind of music He desires.
- God preserved the scriptures and put them in a nearby dollar store.
- It is a sin like sodomy to be without understanding (Rom 1:31).
- What if your pastor does not see anything wrong with fleecing you?
- Have you ever reviewed Eve's thought process in Eden (Gen 3:1-6)?

# BUT #7 … I Like Worship with Instruments

- Where can we turn in the Bible to find your preferences approved?
- Without Bible authority, you are guilty of will worship (Col 2:20-23).
- Israel liked golden calf worship with rock music. What happened?
- Israel liked taking the Ark to war with Philistines. What happened?
- Has your punk pastor ever preached Jer 17:9 like it should be?
- What will you do with members that do <u>not</u> like such worship?

# BUT #8 … They Create Wonderful Feelings

- We would never deny that musical instruments can create feelings.
- However, we walk by faith in the N.T., not by feelings (II Cor 5:7).
- Did Israel have wonderful feelings "playing" at the golden calf?
- Feelings can be very dangerous: fear in Peter and lust in Amnon.
- Human feelings are not the issue; what is God feeling about you?
- Did Abraham do the right thing against his feelings to offer Isaac?

# BUT #9 … They Are a Long Tradition

- You are guilty of vain worship; God rejects your tradition (Matt 15:9).
- As a matter of fact, instruments are of recent origin, not traditional.
- For 1800 years most churches (all Baptists) had no instruments.
- Israel worshipped the brass serpent for 800 years. So what!
- The Jews required circumcision for 2000 years. So what!
- Tradition has no bearing whatsoever on whether something is right.

# BUT #10 … They are Wildly Popular

- We would never deny that loud instrumental music is popular. It is!
- Jesus warned that the popular way is the way to hell (Matt 7:13-14).
- Things highly esteemed by men are abominations to God (Lu 16:15).
- God warned against ever following a crowd to any sin (Ex 23:2).
- Whose side would you be on? The ten spies? Or the two spies?
- The true followers of God from Noah to Paul have always been few.

# BUT #11 … We Must Be Decent and Orderly

- This argument assumes that instruments add order to N.T. worship.
- This argument assumes to know better than God for orderliness.
- For 1800 years God's saints did not consider singing disorderly!
- Yet singing without clanging pianos or jarring guitars is orderly!
- Yet these same people have chaotic sounds and lights for worship!
- Paul's command was to edify and comply, not be worldly popular!

# BUT #12 … Instruments Are Christian Liberty

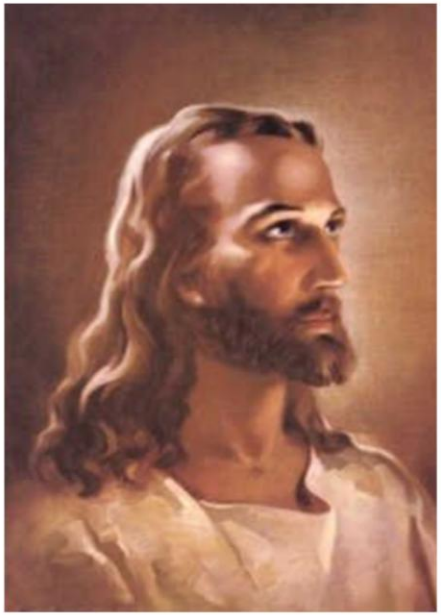
- They stumble on to passages about liberty (Rom 14:4-6; I Cor 10:23).
- They argue: God has left the choice up to each individual church.
- Liberty frees us from man's judgment … *about things indifferent*.
- The law of liberty does not leave God's commands to preference.
- Church music is not an issue of liberty; it is of authority – God's!
- Nadab and Abihu tried a little liberty (Le 10:1-7). What happened?

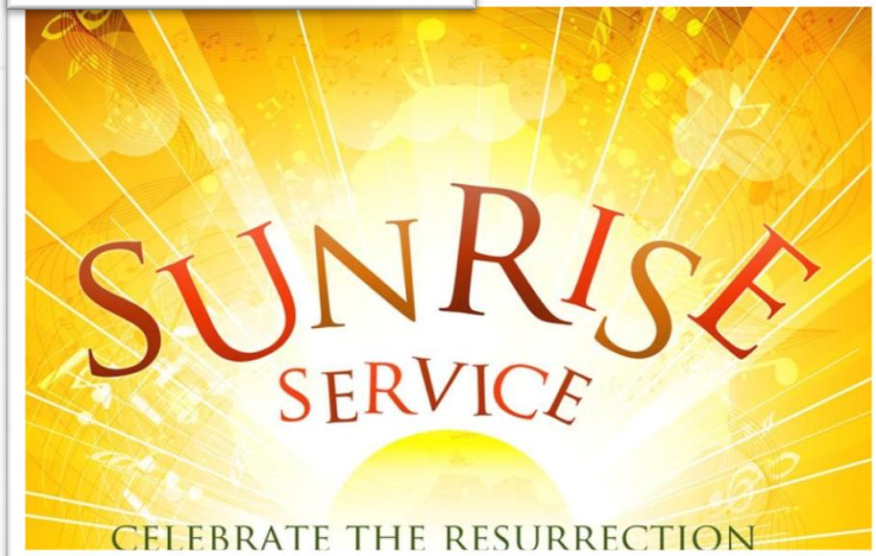
# BUT #13 … Singing Includes Instruments

- This argument fusses about II Chron 30:21, *"Singing with loud instruments unto the LORD."* This should offend your intelligence!
- Or Psalm 33:2, *"Sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings."* You could bring up charges I must be lying to you!
- Could some be playing while others sang? Is that reasonable?
- Could some be like Stevie Wonder and do both, using their hands?
- The Bible distinguishes playing and singing (Ps 68:25; 87:7; etc.).

# It Started with a Piano!

# Altering God's Word Keeps Right on Going!





# Aids or Additions? (1)

- God's commands have surroundings or adjuncts, circumstances, as time, place, manner, means, method, cause, occasion, etc.
- "Aids" and "additions" are clearly and significantly different.
- Things not altering the nature/character of a precept are allowed.
- Conditions or means for right performance do not alter a precept.
- An "aid" helps keep a commandment without altering it at all.

# Aids or Additions? (2)

- An “addition” is a modifying change to the character of a precept.
- Think action. Has anything been added? Or a law kept efficiently?
- An ark of gopher wood. A hammer was an aid, cedar an addition.
- A lamb for Passover. A knife was an aid, a pig an addition.
- Bread for communion. Plate is an aid, ham sandwich an addition.
- Church giving. Plate or box is aid, but fees for prayers an addition.

# Aids or Additions? (3)

- We are told to sing in the New Testament. Think aids or additions?
- What is a hymnal, aid or addition? Helps to sing more efficiently.
- A guitar, aid or addition? Does not help singing, and adds playing.
- Instruments are condemned by the positive command to sing.
- They alter the music from singing … by adding playing to singing.
- This is doctrine of circumstances or the rule of things indifferent.

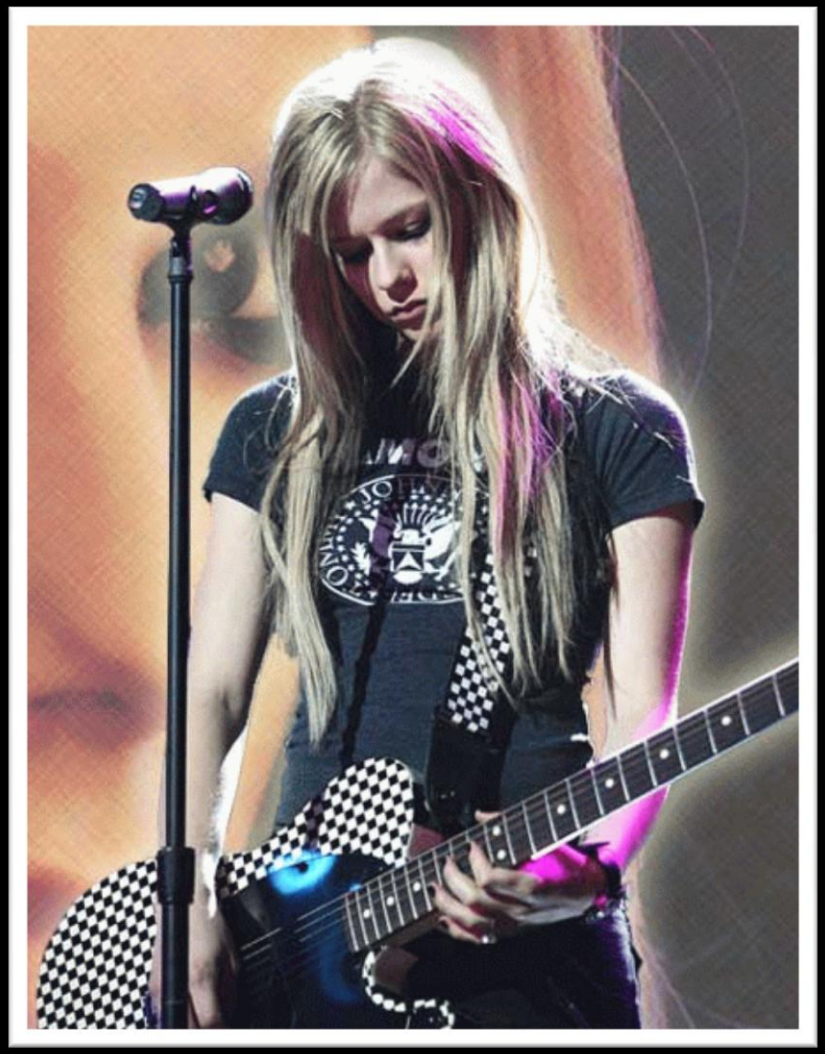
# Aids or Additions? (4)

| COMMANDMENT | AID | ADDITION |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| Use Gopher Wood | Hammer, Saw, Nails | Cedar, Spruce |
| | | |
| Fruit of the Vine | Table, Cups, Dispenser | Milk, Coke |
| | | |
| Bread for Communion | Plate, Refrigerator | Butter, Meat |
| | | |
| **SING IN ASSEMBLIES** | **HYMNAL, NOTES** | **PLAY AN INSTRUMENT** |

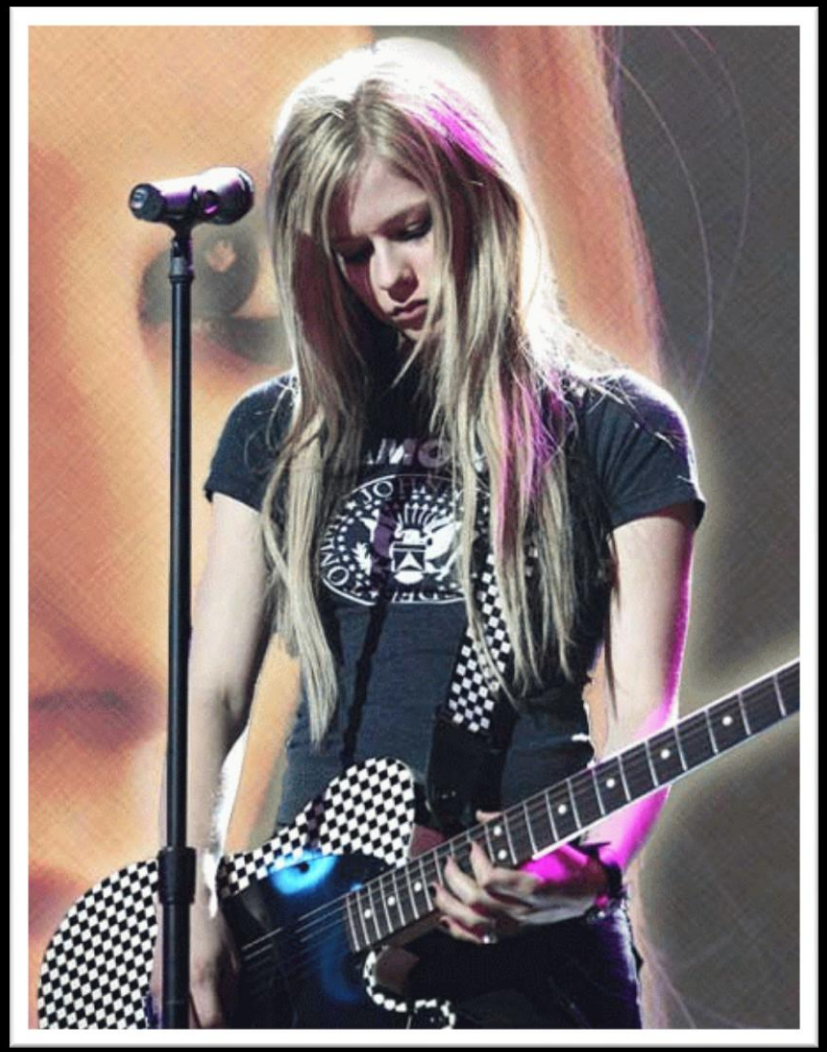
# Aids or Additions? (5)

| COMMAND | AID or ADDITION | MAN'S ACTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| Baptize | Baptistery | Baptize | Aid |
| | | | |
| Assemble | Church Building | Assemble | Aid |
| | | | |
| Sing | Hymnals | Sing | Aid |
| | | | |
| **Sing** | **Piano** | **Play** | **Addition** |

# Why Do They Dislike Each Other?



# It Is the Phenomenon of Conditioning



# Conditioning (1)

- 60-year-old Baptist pianists think the guitar is the devil's tool.
- 20-year-old Punk Christians see piano players as dying dinosaurs.
- The pianist never considered scripture before playing in church.
- Since she ignored God's instruction for music, her feelings rule.
- Her feelings scream that young babes with guitars are of the devil.
- They are equal heretics, one is just more popular and prettier.

# Conditioning (2)

- The dying generation of pianists fully assumes God loves pianos.
- How can they love pianos but hate guitars? Conditioning and time.
- With the same perverse logic, they utterly despise cigars and wine!
- But their greatest Baptist preacher, Charles Spurgeon, would never allow a piano in his church and enjoyed daily cigars and his wine!
- Without scripture and the holy fear and zeal to submit to whatever it says, every man and woman is subject to various conditioning.

# What If Jesus Showed Up? (1)

Jesus Teaching by the Seashore by James Tissot

# What If Jesus Showed Up? (2)

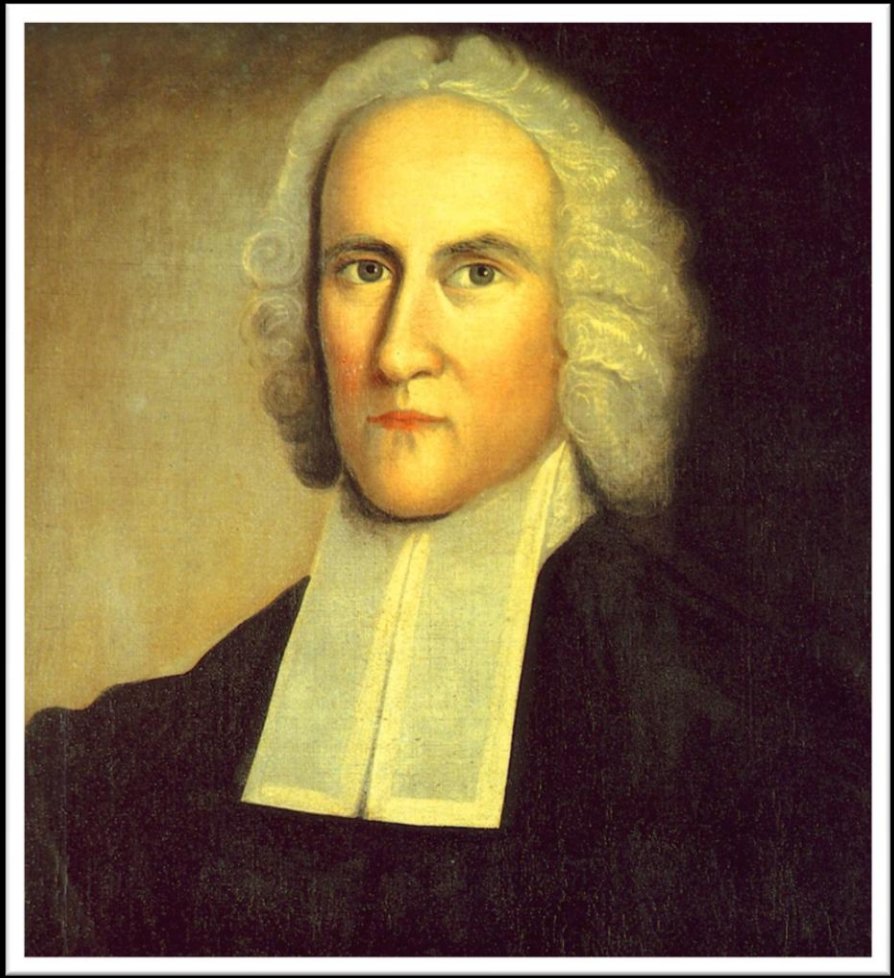
- No 115+ decibel rock and roll music booming from subwoofers!
- No immodest girls strutting on stage – or actually anywhere at all!
- No free coffee and donuts – in fact, hunger could easily occur!
- No sinners comfortable – all leaving angry or repenting violently!
- No jokes, stories, contests, promotions, or cool-dude punk stuff!
- Authoritative preaching of hard, critical, self-sacrificing gospel!

# What If Paul Showed Up? (1)

# What If Paul Showed Up? (2)

- Rude in speech and base in appearance (II Cor 10:1; 11:6)!
- Did not have any excellency of speech or of wisdom (I Cor 2:1).
- Determined not to know anything but Christ crucified (I Cor 2:2).
- Stage presence in weakness, fear, and much trembling (I Cor 2:3).
- Speech was not with enticing words of man's wisdom (I Cor 2:4).
- One month of preaching by Paul, and they could not pay light bills!

# What If Jonathan Edwards Showed Up? (1)



# What If Jonathan Edwards Showed Up? (2)

- No 115+ decibel rock and roll music booming from subwoofers!
- No immodest girls strutting on stage – or actually anywhere at all!
- No coffee and donuts – in fact, hard pews, poor lighting, no HVAC!
- How would they like, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”?
- No jokes, stories, contests, promotions, or cool-dude punk stuff!
- Authoritative preaching of a sovereign God and damned sinners!

# More about Instruments in Church (1)

- This doctrine quickly exposes those not fearing God or scripture.
- Isaiah blasted Israel for instruments without knowledge (Is 5:11-14).
- Amos declared that godliness trumped instruments (Amos 5:21-24).
- Things highly esteemed by men are abominations to God (Lu 16:15).
- "Win the lost at any cost" will finally lead to worship 100% worldly.
- Instruments and doctrine have an inverse relationship (II Tim 4:3-4).

# More about Instruments in Church (2)

- Churches now choreograph beat-per-minute and other factors.
- This is not the small matter many make it – it is Biblical religion.
- Feelings derived from church instrumental music are dangerous!
- We walk by faith in the N.T., not sight or feelings. Read the Bible!
- This is a simple issue of faith – there are others far more complex.
- Church music should emphasize in order lyrics, joy, reverence, etc.

# More about Instruments in Church (3)

- These punk Christians justify themselves by gain (I Cor 6:5)!
- Extreme vibrato and other singing arts should be carefully ruled.
- Vibrato, rounds, and other such singing can easily be “tongues.”
- Singing is not a sport for recreation or fun any more than praying.

# The Choice

## Old Paths – the Good Way

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein" (Jer 6:16).

## Entertainment and Fables – to Reject Doctrine

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Tim 4:3-4).

# For Further Study

Instrumental Music in the Church (Guess for PB's) ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/church/musical-instruments-in-the-church.php.
Instrumental Music in the Church (Churches of Christ) ... http://www.insearchoftruth.org/articles/music_history.html.
Instrumental Music in the Church (Churches of Christ) ... http://www.bible.ca/ntx-instrumental-music.htm.
Instrumental Music in the Church (Reformed Presbyterians) ... http://www.swrb.com/newslett/actualNLs/instrher.htm.
Instrumental Music in the Church (LetGodBeTrue) ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/instrumental-music-word.pdf.

Standard Work by John L. Girardeau ... http://rpcottawa.org/uploads/articles/Instrumental_Music_in_the_Public_Worship_of_the_Church--Girardeau.pdf.

History of Instruments in Churches ... http://www.bible.ca/H-music.htm.
History of Instruments in Churches ... http://www.piney.com/MuHistor.html.

Perilous Times ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/exposition/perilous-times/sermon.php.
Contemporary Christianity ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/contemporary-christianity.pdf.
Songs for Worship ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/songs-for-worship.pdf.
David as Praise and Music Leader ... http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/heart-of-david.pdf.

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