

Instruments of music are common in almost all denominations today...but does God approve? II Timothy 2:15 teaches us to make diligent effort to have His approval, so as to not be a worker ashamed before Him. It is therefore not a question of personal tastes or what sounds nice or what will be the most attractive to visitors, but what does God desire us to do.

But, how do we determine what God wants? 1) Feelings? Feelings are very subjective and may or may not be a true indicator of what another wants. 2) Should we go by what religious scholars think? The problem here is that not all scholars agree and ultimately they are human and subject to error. As an aside, most scholars will say that historically early Christians sung spiritual songs without instrumental accompaniment. 3) How about tradition? Recent tradition would favor use of instruments, but the word "accapella" which we use to describe vocal music only, comes from a Latin origin that means in the style of the chapel or church. In other words, to use only vocal music was to

do it like it was done in church. Old tradition would then favor no instruments. 4) Maybe we should appeal to the words of Jesus Christ in the New Testament (Hebrews 1:1-2). Now that is the only safe route, as it is determining what God wants by going to God Himself for the information. So, what does the New Testament say?

Here are most of the music passages in New Testament. Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16; James 5:13; I Corinthians 14:15; Acts 16:25. If you read these you will see they only speak of singing. No mention of instruments.

### **Some Objections Of Men**

a. **"Instruments in worship are not expressly forbidden."** Question: Could Noah have used oak wood since God did not forbid it? He specified gopher wood and said nothing else. Can we use jelly on the communion bread because Jesus did not forbid it? This does not tell us what God **approves**. We need to know if God approves of

instrumental music.

b. **"Instruments were practiced in Old Testament times."** - True, but we read in Romans 7:1-4 and Galatians 3:23-25 that the old law has been done away with. We are not under the Old law and actually Gentiles never were, as it was a law for the Jews.

c. **"Instruments are only an aid to my singing"** - Maybe, but it is also an addition and we are warned not to add to God's word.

d. **"There are harps in heaven"** (Revelation 5:8-9; 14:1-3). - This is not in the church on earth. It is figurative, just as the incense are said to be prayers (v.8). If true, then each worshiper would have to have a harp...no authority for organ, guitar, etc.

e. **"The Greek 'Psallo' translated 'sing' and 'make melody' means pluck, twang, strike, etc."** - What do we pluck? If true, then all worshipers must have some string to strike. All translators render it sing, not play. To know this you must know Greek and

this takes the understanding out of the hands of the common man. The context demands vocal music...we are to **speak** and make melody in our hearts.

**In Conclusion:** Does God approve of instrumental music in worship? NO!

**We are the Lord's church  
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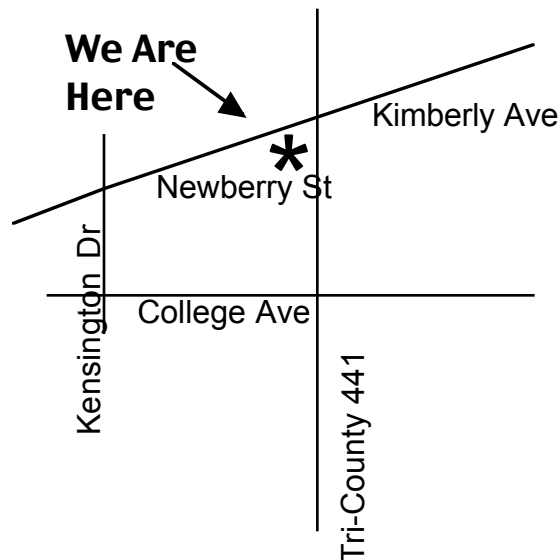
## Service Times

### Sunday

Bible Classes - 9:30 a.m.  
General Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship Hour - 6:00 p.m.

### Wednesday

Midweek Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.



*The Appleton church of Christ is  
totally undenominational*

# *Does God Approve Of Instrumental Music In Worship?*

