



### Today's Sermons

Morning: The Parable of the Two Sons  
Evening: Jesus' First Miracle

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	38
Sunday AM Worship	53
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Wed. Bible Study	29
Offering	\$1738

## Five Views Of Mark 16:16

1. Catholic: "He who believes NOT and is baptized shall be saved."
2. Atheist: "He who believes and is baptized shall NOT be saved."
3. Universalist: "He who believes NOT and is NOT baptized will be saved."
4. Baptist: "He who believes and is NOT baptized shall be saved."
5. Bible: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved."

## Which view will you take?



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**Times of Services:**  
Sunday  
 Bible Study:... 10:00am  
 AM Worship:...11:00am  
 PM Worship:...6:00pm  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday  
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program  
 Sunday:.....7:30am  
 "Back to the Bible"  
 AM 580 WSKS  
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A  
 Warm & Cordial  
 Welcome  
 To All Our  
 Visitors!**

### HUMAN TRADITION IS THAT THE REAL REASON?

Roger D. Campbell

A gospel preacher who is a good friend of mine recently told me that he had been discussing some questions with a brother in the Lord. The brother with whom he spoke told him that the only reason we (the church of Christ) do not use mechanical instruments of music in our worship services is human tradition. To hear him tell it, it is our own man-made tradition that keeps us from having mechanical music.

We beg to differ. Even though the man is intelligent, and even though he took the initiative to come to the U.S. from a foreign country, he is dead wrong. Now he is back in his homeland spreading his false statements about the worship of God's people. Knowing that he received at least part of his training in a "Christian" university located in Abilene, Texas, we are not in the least bit surprised by his claim about mechanical music. Disappointed, yes. Surprised, no.

We are accustomed to answering "the" question. First-time visitors to our services ask it. Friends or relatives who have heard about us ask "it." Small children inquire about "it." Teenagers who are wanting to discuss

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“it” with their friends want to know how best to explain “it.” What is the question that attracts so much attention? Though stated in a variety of ways, the basic question is, “Why doesn’t the church of Christ use mechanical instruments of music in its worship?” People wonder why they do not hear a piano, pipe organ, or guitars at our services.

It is sometimes stated, “Oh, you are the ones that do not use music.” What does the word “music” mean? Here you go: “a. the science or art of ordering tones or sounds in succession . . . b. vocal, instrumental, or mechanical sounds having rhythm, melody, or harmony” [*Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*]. Thus, by definition, in fact, we *do* have music in our worship services. How is that? Singing fits the criteria of being vocal sounds having rhythm or melody. So, singing is a type of music.

Here is the question that needs to be considered: “According to the Bible, what kind of music does the Lord want His church to use when worshipping Him?” It is not a question of what we prefer, what we have always done, or what we think best fits our needs. The only thing that really matters is, “What does God’s word say?”

Please note that whatever was done in the Old Testament era or what might take place in heaven has nothing to do with music in the church on the planet earth. We are interested in knowing what God has decreed for the church that Jesus heads (Ephesians 5:23). Jesus has all authority, and the church is to be in subjection to Him (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 5:24). We must do all things in the name of the Christ, that is, by His authority (Colossians 3:17).

Just what kind of music has Jesus authorized for the worship of His church? The only way to find out the right answer to that question is to turn to the New Testament. Our task is to read from Matthew 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, making special note of all verses that refer to the worship of the church. But even among verses that are related to worship, we are only interested in this study in looking at the verses that deal specifically with music (not giving, the Lord’s Supper, preaching, or prayer).

What do we find? What does the New Testament teach about music in worship? We find the answer in the following verses:

1 Corinthians 14:15 - “*I will sing . . .*”

Ephesians 5:19 - “. . . *singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*”

Colossians 3:16 - “. . . *teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*”

Hebrews 2:12 - “. . . *in the midst of the church [assembly, NKJV] will I sing praise unto thee.*”

In these verses, as well as others that might be listed, we see that singing is “in” - it is what the Lord has instructed Christians to do in worship. On the other hand, in His new covenant our Lord nowhere authorizes playing mechanical instruments of music as part of acceptable worship. Men may like them. Men may be accustomed to hearing them. Men may feel comfortable employing them. Men may even find it hard to imagine worshipping God without them. But what does *the Book* say?

When all is said and done, the bottom line is still the bottom line. In the church of the Christ, we sing praises to Jehovah in worship because that is what He instructs us to do. Having mechanical instruments of music in the worship of Christians is unauthorized by the New Testament and is, therefore, an addition of men. Why don’t we use them? Is it just our feeble human tradition? Hardly.

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*"He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit. There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health. The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment. Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy. There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief. Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight" (Proverbs 12:17-22).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 24 – Song Service
- Oct 1 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Oct 1 – Guest Speaker – Steve Clevenger (from TCSOP&CD)
- Oct 8 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Oct 15 – Guest Speaker – TBA
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell