



Answering Challenging Questions:

“Why do we not musical instruments in our worship services?” (Part 1)

The Challenging Accusations & Questions we are looking at in this study:

- Why do we not use musical instruments in our worship services?
- Can I go to Old Testament for the authority to use musical instruments in worship?
- What does the New Testament say about music in the worship of the church?
- What about the historical reference to music in the church?
- How should we sing in worship?



A top-down view of various musical instruments scattered on a light-colored surface. In the upper right, a portion of a piano keyboard is visible. To the right, the neck and body of an acoustic guitar are shown. In the center, there is a set of cymbals and a snare drum with two wooden drumsticks resting on it. Below the drums, a black microphone lies horizontally. In the lower left, a yellow rubber mallet and a pair of wooden mallets are visible. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

Why do we not use musically
instruments in our worship?

Is acapella singing just a tradition?

Where should we look to discover what God has authorized?

- Can I go to Old Testament for instruction as Christian?
 - There are definitely references to music instruments being used in OT.
 - However, as a Christians I'm not subject to OT.
 - Colossians 2:13 – 14
 - Galatians 5:2 – 4
- The New Testament is our authority in all things in Christian religion!

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a dark blue pen over a sheet of music paper. The paper is filled with musical notation, including staves and notes, though the text is slightly blurred. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the skin of the hand. The overall composition is centered around the act of writing or reading music.


What does the New Testament
say about music in the worship
of the church?

There are 10 References to singing and/or music in the N.T.:

- Matthew 26:30 (ESV) (30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.)
- See also Mark 14:26
- Acts 16:25 (ESV) (25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,)
- Romans 15:9 (ESV) (9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”)
- 1 Corinthians 14:15 (ESV) (15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.)
- Hebrews 2:12 (ESV) (12 saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”)
- Hebrews 13:15 (ESV) (15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.)
- James 5:13 (ESV) (13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.)
- Ephesians 5:19 – 20
- Colossians 3:16

Let's take a closer look at Colossians 3:16 & Ephesians 5:19

- “making melody”
 - Greek word – psallo
 - It means "to pluck; to rub; to touch.”
 - In order to be able to understand exactly what it means it is imperative to know what is the object of the sentence. In other words, what is being plucked?
 - It's the same as with the word “run.”
 - Like a refrigerator or a race or your nose.
- “in your heart”
 - In this verse, it is the individual's heart that being plucked, not an instrument.
 - This verse simply doesn't allow us license to incorporate an instrument.
 - That would be taking the verse out of the context God had intended.

A photograph of a church choir performing. The choir members are seen from the side, holding sheet music and singing. The background is slightly blurred, showing the interior of a church with large windows. The lighting is warm and focused on the choir members.

Neither of these passages leave room for the use of musical instrument in our worship of our Lord & Savior!

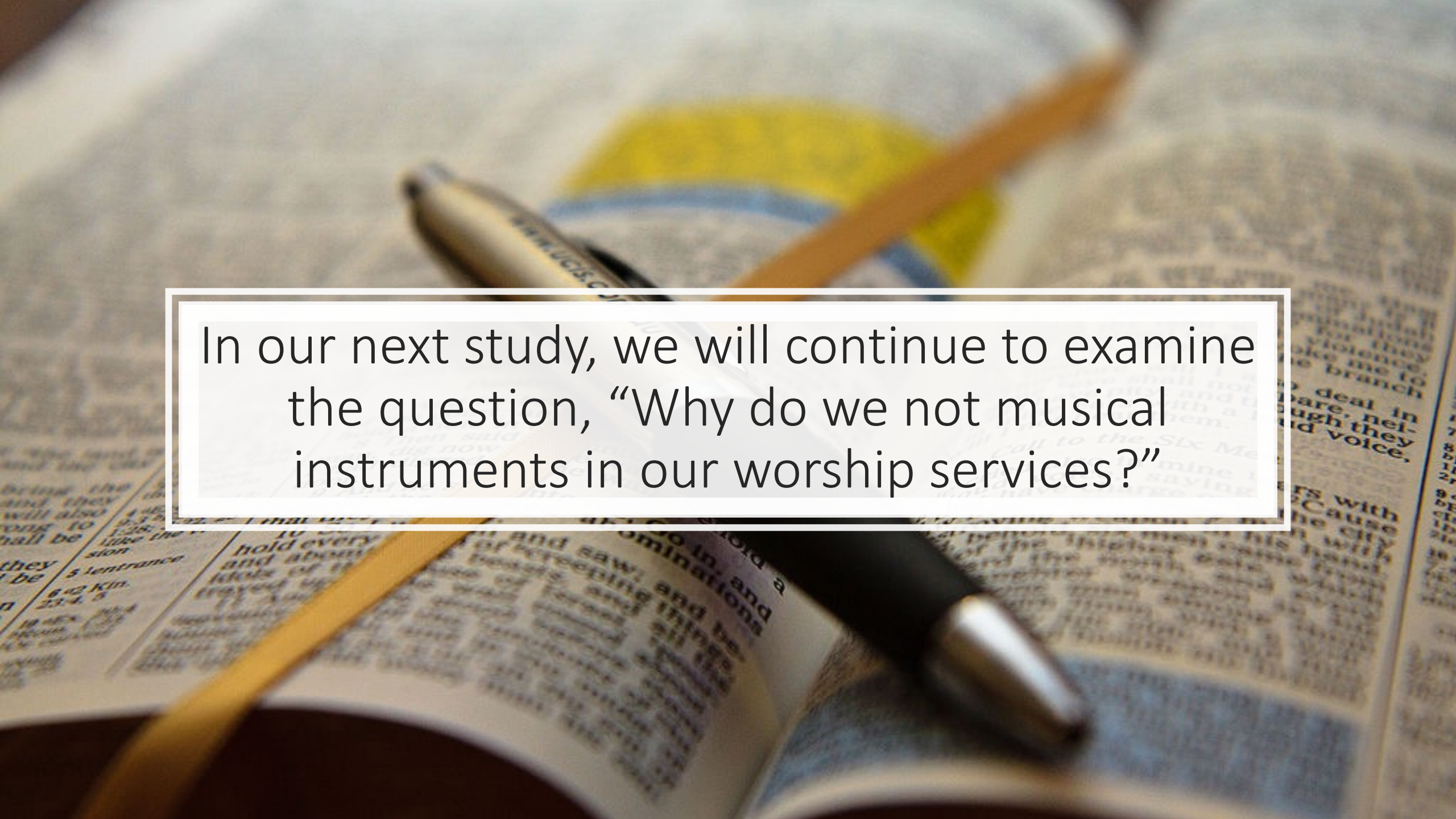
What about the historical reference to music in the church?

- In the church, we have taught that our singing should be acapella.
 - Acapella (a kap'pella) in Latin literally means in the way of the chapel.
 - It is singing without the accompaniment of instruments.
- Historically, the first appearance of instrumental music in church worship was not until the sixth century A.D., and there was no general practicing of it until after the eighth century.
- If we want to be approved by God then we must do things the way he intended, even if we think there is a better way. Anything else is self-ambition on our parts.



How should we sing in worship?

- Hebrews 2:12
- 1 Corinthians 14:15
- We must sing with the spirit!
 - Hebrews 13:15
 - Acts 16:25
 - James 5:13
- We must sing with the understanding!
 - Psalms 47:7
 - Colossians 3:16

An open book with a pen and pencil resting on it, with a text box overlaid. The background is a close-up of an open book with a pen and pencil resting on it. The text box is white with a thin black border and contains the following text:

In our next study, we will continue to examine the question, “Why do we not use musical instruments in our worship services?”