

March 1, 2026, AM Sermon – Does the Church Use Mechanical Instruments in Worship?

Introduction

1. Christ and His church were in the mind of God from eternity ([Eph. 3:9-11](#)).
2. God is seeking true worshippers to worship Him ([Jn. 4:20-24](#)).
3. We must appeal to the standard God has given us to answer the question, “Does the church use mechanical instruments in worship?”

I. The Origin of Mechanical Instruments

1. When we use the term “mechanical instruments” we are referring to that which is manufactured or produced by man.
 - a. A basic principle must be brought to mind that when God requires us to do anything He will make sure we have what we need in order to accomplish it ([2 Cor. 9:8](#))!
 - b. Therefore, if He wished to be worshipped with mechanical instruments then by necessity He would have given the instructions by which to accomplish this.
2. The descendants of Cain are the first recorded instance of mechanical instruments in the Bible ([Gen. 4:17-21](#)).
3. While we do not make the argument that mechanical instruments are wrong because of this, we do simply highlight their beginning was from man.

II. Old Testament Usage of Mechanical Instruments in Worship

1. The Law of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are silent as it relates to mechanical instruments being used in worship.
2. David did introduce mechanical instruments into worship later on.
 - a. Note it was the Levites that David selected for this task ([1 Chr. 23:1-5](#); [2 Chr. 7:6](#)).
 - b. We know that David was skilled at playing a musical instrument ([1 Sam. 16:16-23](#)).
3. Mechanical instruments were tolerated by God in worship under the Old Testament.
 - a. This is no argument for their use in New Testament worship as we are not under the Old Testament ([Col. 2:14](#); [Eph. 2:15](#); cf. the book of Hebrews)!
 - b. Polygamy was also tolerated under the Old Testament with David himself being a polygamist ([1 Chr. 3:1-9](#)).

III. New Testament Authority

1. For all that we say and do we must have New Testament authority ([Col. 3:17](#)).
 - a. This absolutely includes how we worship God ([Jn. 4:23-24](#)).

IV. A Detailed Examination of Ephesians 5:18-19 and Colossians 3:16

1. A prohibition of drinking alcohol contrasted with being filled with the Spirit ([Eph. 5:18](#)).
 - a. be...drunk (*methysko* G3182 verb) “signifies ‘to make drunk, or to grow drunk’ (an inceptive verb, marking the process or the state expressed in No. 1 [*methuo* - meaning to be drunk with wine]), ‘to become intoxicated’” (Vine vol. 2 p. 180).
 - b. wine (*oinos* G3631 noun) “is the general word for ‘wine’” (Vine vol. 2 p. 677).
 - c. excess (*asotia* G810 noun) “reckless abandon, debauchery, dissipation, profligacy” (BDAG 148).
 - d. “but” marks a contrast and provides what we *must* be filled with.
 - e. be filled (*pleroo* G4137 verb, imperative) “to make full, to fill, to fill up...i. q. to fill to the full” (Thayer 517).

March 1, 2026, AM Sermon – Does the Church Use Mechanical Instruments in Worship?

- f. the Spirit (*pneuma* G4151 noun) is a metonymy for the Spirit's teaching i.e., the word of Christ as seen in the first part of [Colossians 3:16](#).
2. Positive instruction for how we are to worship God in this area ([Eph. 5:19](#)).
 - a. Speaking (*laleo* G2980 verb) “to use words in order to declare one's mind and disclose one's thoughts; to speak” (Thayer 368).
 - b. “to yourselves” is a reflexive pronoun meaning I speak to you and you speak to me.
 - c. psalms (*psalmos* G5568 noun) “primarily denoted ‘a striking or twitching with the fingers (on musical strings)’; then, ‘a sacred song, sung to musical accompaniment, a psalm’” (Vine vol. 2 p. 497).
 - d. hymns (*hymnos* G5215 noun) “a song in praise of gods, heroes, conquerors...but in the Scriptures of God; a sacred song, hymn” (Thayer 637).
 - e. spiritual songs (*pneumatikos* G4152 adjective *ode* G5603 noun) “‘an ode, song,’ is always used in the NT (as in the Sept.), in praise of God or Christ” (Vine vol. 2 p. 586).
 - f. singing (*ado* G103 verb) “to sing, chant...to the praise of any one” (Thayer 13).
 - g. making melody (*psallo* G5567 verb) “primarily ‘to twitch, twang,’ then, ‘to play a stringed instrument with the fingers,’ and hence, in the Sept., ‘to sing with a harp, sing psalms,’ denotes, in the NT, ‘to sing a hymn, sing praise’; in [Eph. 5:19](#), ‘making melody’...Elsewhere it is rendered ‘sing,’ [Rom. 15:9](#); [1 Cor. 14:15](#); in [Jas. 5:13](#), RV, ‘let him sing praise’ (KJV, ‘let him sing psalms’)” (Vine vol. 2 p. 402).
 - h. heart (*kardia* G2588 noun) “the centre and seat of spiritual life, the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors [so in Eng. heart, inner man, etc.]” (Thayer 325).
 - i. “to the Lord” indicates the object of our worship which is God.
3. [Colossians 3:16](#) serves as a parallel text to [Ephesians 5:18-19](#) to shed even more light on this matter.
 - a. teaching (*didasko* G1321 verb) “to impart instruction, instil doctrine into one” (Thayer 144).
 - b. admonishing (*noutheteo* G3560 verb) “to counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct, admonish, warn, instruct” (BDAG 679).
4. Nowhere does the New Testament authorize mechanical instruments for worship to God.
 - a. Feel free to examine all ten passages which speak to this subject for verification ([Mt. 26:30](#); [Mk. 14:26](#); [Ac. 16:25](#); [Rm. 15:9](#); [1 Cor. 14:15](#); [Eph. 5:19](#); [Col. 3:16](#); [Heb. 2:12, 13:15](#); [Jm. 5:13](#)).

Conclusion

1. Does the church use mechanical instruments for worship? No!
 - a. Why? The New Testament does not authorize their use.
 - b. God has authorized the human heart (the inner man) to speak, teach, admonish, sing, and make melody to one another and to the Lord.
2. When God positively and specifically authorizes that eliminates all other options.
 - a. Consider Noah and the ark ([Gen. 6:14](#)).
3. How we worship God is a salvation issue ([Lev. 10:1-2](#)).
 - a. It is absolutely sinful to worship God any other way than in spirit and in truth.