

## UNACCOMPANIED SINGING

### INTRODUCTION

One of the most immediately recognizable distinctions in a church of Christ is that we sing without the accompaniment of instruments. Our decision to exclude them from worship is not based on preference or tradition, nor is it merely incidental as though we lack competent musicians or cannot afford an organ. Rather, it is a deliberate choice based on a clear understanding of Scripture.

#### I. WE SING WITHOUT INSTRUMENTS BECAUSE IT IS THE ONLY MUSIC AUTHORIZED

**A. Hebrews 2:12; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:15**

In assembled worship in the New Testament, singing is all that is mentioned for music.

**B. Acts 16:25; James 5:13**

Instruments are also absent from private worship, as well.

**C. Galatians 3:15; Revelation 22:18-19**

We have no authority to act without God's approval. It would be sinful to add.

#### II. WE SING WITHOUT INSTRUMENTS BECAUSE THE OLD TESTAMENT IS NOT IN FORCE

**A. Psalm 150; 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 15:28**

It is clearly true that instruments were in use in worship during the Old Testament.

**B. Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 8:13**

We are not under that Covenant now. It is dead and obsolete.

**C. Galatians 5:3-4; Acts 15:10**

Were we to attempt to incorporate any portion of the Old Testament into our present worship, we would burden ourselves with its entirety.

**D. Leviticus 15:19; 19:19**

We would have some very awkward changes to every aspect of our present existence if we tried to live according to that old, dead law.

**III. WE SING WITHOUT INSTRUMENTS BECAUSE ONLY WORDS CAN TEACH**

**A. Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16**

An important goal of singing is to teach one another.

**B. Acts 5:20; 11:14**

Words are essential to teaching. Tunes by themselves cannot accomplish what lyrics do.