

The Case for A cappella Praise

Article: "Nation's Largest Church of Christ Adding Instrumental Service." Bobby Ross, Jr. *The Christian Chronicle*. Dec. 12, 2006. www.christianchronicle.org

Is it true that "to be most faithful to God's word" we must add instrumental praise? No, The Case is For A cappella Praise.

I. A cappella Praise Because the New Testament _____ It

- A. A cappella means _____ – *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*
- B. The New Testament directs Christians to sing praise to God by commands and examples; it does not direct Christians to play instruments for God as worship:
 - 1. Matt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15
 - 2. Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Jas. 5:13
- C. The N. T. directs a cappella praise to God in contrast with the O. T. Christians live according to the gospel of Jesus Christ that fulfilled and replaced the Old Testament (Hebrews 7:11-16).
 - 1. O.T. said Burn _____ (Exodus 30:7-9) Yet N.T. is silent.
 - 2. O.T. said Light _____ (Exodus 40:4) Yet N.T. is silent.
 - 3. O.T. said Keep _____ Day (Deuteronomy 5:12-15) Yet N.T. is silent
 - 4. O.T. said Play _____ (2 Chronicles 29:25) Yet N.T. is silent.
 - 5. O.T. said ____ (Psalm 30:4, 12) N.T. says _____ (Col. 3:16). And so we sing a cappella praise.
- D. We need to stand on the scriptures (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1; 1 Cor. 4:6).

II. A cappella Praise Because _____ is For It

- A. But isn't this just a peculiar reading of the N.T. among churches of Christ? No, History is for it.
- B. Timeline and quotes supporting a cappella praise:
- C. Review the meaning of vocal singing: a cappella music.
 - 1. "As far as church history is concerned, the most telling confirmation of textual silence, ironically, is found in the very words, *a cappella*. *Cappella* is Latin for *chapel* or *church*. Taken in its literal meaning, the Italian *a cappella* means "in chapel style," or "in the style of the church." From the first century onward, vocal music was so distinctive from the instrumental music used in both pagan worship and private entertainment that it was uniquely known as music of the church – that is *a cappella*! So when we say that we sing *a cappella*, we are affirming what millions of believers over the centuries have affirmed – that the music of the church is distinctively vocal." (F. Lagard Smith, *The Cultural Church*. p. 201)

III. A cappella Praise Because Instrumental Music Does Not "_____"

- A. Without scripture or history, proponents of instrumental music usually go the pragmatic route.
- B. Instrumental Music Does Not Make _____ (Rom. 1:16; John 8:31-32).
- C. Instrumental Music Does Not _____ Saints (Col. 3:16).
- D. Instrumental Music Does Not Promote _____ (Eph. 4:3)
- E. Instrumental Music Does Appeal to the _____.
 - 1. Instrumental music manipulates _____, emotion and pulse.
 - 2. Instrumental music entertains and teaches others that worship is a _____ (not so! John 4:23-24).