

The Lies of Satan: Did God Really Say That? (Part 2)

By Justin Morton

Lies...we've all told them and we've all believed them. Lies are a part of everyone's past, and we shouldn't be proud of them. Some Christians today are notorious for lying. According to Jesus, those who lie take after Satan, who is the father of lies (Jn. 8:44). Let's continue our study of some of the commands of God which some people today are questioning. "Did God really say that? Surely not!"

Instrumental music in the worship assembly. I don't know of a more divisive issue than this one. Mainstream churches of Christ appear to be the only ones not using mechanical instruments in their worship to God. In fact, just because a sign reads "Church of Christ" doesn't necessarily mean the congregation doesn't use instrumental music during their worship assembly. Many have been led down the path to asking, "Did God really say that? Surely He didn't mean we couldn't use instruments in our worship to Him." Although there are many, let's consider two reasons why the Karns Church of Christ, and many like it, does not use instruments during worship.

First, the Bible never authorizes the use of instruments in worship. In fact, Paul told the church in Ephesus to, "*Sing and make melody in your hearts to the Lord*" (Eph. 5:19). Notice Paul told the church in Ephesus to sing, not to play an instrument. Throughout the New Testament we find a multitude of verses dealing with singing as an appropriate outpouring of worship (Matt. 26:30; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; I Cor. 14:15; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Jam. 5:13). Instrumental music used in worship is not found anywhere in the New Testament.

Consider that instrumental music wasn't introduced into worship settings until about 670 years after Christ. Notice over 6 centuries passed after the time of Jesus on earth before instruments were used in worship. If instruments were deemed an appropriate addition to worship, why did people wait so long to use them? The reason? Because it wasn't considered appropriate by the owner of the Church (Jesus, who purchased it with His own blood) and the disciples who had direct access to Him. Some of the most well-known denominational leaders who opposed

instrumental music in worship include: Charles Spurgeon (perhaps the greatest Baptist preacher to ever live), Andrew Fuller (one of the most respected Bible commentators in the Baptist church), Adam Clark (a well-known Bible commentator in history, also a Methodist) and John Wesley (founder of the Methodist church) who said, "I have no opposition to the organ in our chapel provided it is neither seen nor heard."

Too many churches have bought into the lie instrumental music is an acceptable form of worship to God. The truth of the matter is it's not. God never authorized or commanded such and God spoke pretty plainly throughout the Bible about adding to and taking away from His Word. (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:5-6; Gal. 1:9-10; 2 Cor. 11:4; Rev. 22:18-19).

Satan has done a good job of causing Christians to read God's Word and question what God really intended. Friends, remember Satan goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). He will do everything in his power to get Christians to ask the question, "Did God really say that? Surely not!"