

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

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January 14, 2024

“True Peace”

By George Parsley



In a world of chaos and turmoil, true peace is hard to find. But in all that this world has going on, true peace can be found and had in abundance.

The place of peace is in the same as it has been for over 2,000 years, Jesus. “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30).

The invitation and plea for rest and peace is open today just as wide as it was when Jesus spoke these words. Peter wrote, “*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you*” (1 Peter 5:7). The Lord does not want us to live with fear, anxiety, turmoil or cares. He wants them from you. Why? Because He cares for you, He cares about what your life consists of each day and wants to remove those things that makes it tumultuous.

There were those in the days of Jesus that was looking and needing peace and they found it in Jesus. We find the woman with the blood issue for 12 years finding peace. “*And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch’d*” (Luke 8:43-44). And Jesus said to this woman, “*...Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace*” (Luke 8:48).

Peace was available for this woman but it was only in Jesus. No one else could give her peace from her problems. When she went to Jesus her life changed, she could go in peace. And so it is with us.

There was another woman who was at the feet of Jesus seeking peace from her sins. “*And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment*” (Luke 7:37-38).

Her life choices had this woman's life in despair and hopelessness. She was a sinner. She had made some terrible choices in her life which resulted in her having no peace. But she went to the fountain of peace, Jesus. “*And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace*” (Luke 7:50). This woman found the peace that she so desperately needed because of her choices in life. She came to Jesus in tears, but left forgiven and in peace from her many sins.

You see, no matter what our issues of life are. Or the cords of our sins. The door of peace is open for all. And there will be no peace in life until we reach out to Jesus, who is waiting and ready to instill peace in your soul.

"THE UNLYING GOD, Titus 1:2"

By Bill Reeves

"in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal." (ASV)

The phrase "God, who cannot lie," in the Greek text is not talking about whether or not God is able to lie. Someone has said: "If God can't lie then he is not all-powerful (omnipotent). There is something that he cannot do!"

The Greek text, in saying that God cannot lie, employs three words: the unlying God ('o apseudes theos). 'o = the; apseudes = unlying; and theos = God: "the unlying God," or "the not-lying God."

The Greek uses pseudes to mean false. We are familiar with the word "pseudes" as used in compound phrases such as pseudonym, a false name, fictitious name, pen name. With the privative "a" before a word, the thought of the word is negated. For example, theos means God; atheist means no God. So, apseudes means unlying. God is the unlying, not-lying, or non-false God because he never lies, but always fulfills his promises. Some don't believe this. A "long" interval of time to them means no fulfillment. 2 Pet. 3:3-7, "knowing this first, that in the last days mockers shall come with mockery, walking after their own lusts, 4 and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for, from the day that the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." Not so! They willfully forget something: "that there were heavens from of old, and an earth compacted out of water and amidst water, by the word of God; 6 by which means the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 but the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."

Thousands of years may pass between a promise of God, e.g., Gen. 3:15 and the fulfillment in the death of Jesus on the cross, but it came to pass. About 700 years passed between God's promise in Isa. 7:14 and the fulfillment in Matt. 1:22,23. Has God ever failed to keep his promise? Some 430 years passed between the promise of Gen. 15:13,14 and the fulfillment, Exo. 12:40,41. Almost a year passed between the promise of God given in Gen. 17:21 and the fulfillment, but God kept his promise at the assigned time. A couple of weeks passed between Acts 27:25,26 and 27:44.

Did God ever fail to keep his promises, be the interval long or short? Then why refuse to believe him concerning the Judgment Day? This is the whole point of the lesson. We therefore must watch and be ready! Matt. 24:44; 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know not the day nor the hour ... Therefore be ye also ready; for in an hour that ye think not the Son of man cometh.

As God through Habakkuk said, 2:3, *"For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hasteth toward the end, and shall not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not delay."* He is the unlying God!

There is one promise of God yet to be fulfilled, but it will come to pass! Read it in John 5:27-29; it will certainly come to pass for God is the unlying God! A promised event of his never failed to be fulfilled. *"He is faithful that promised"* (Hebrews 10:23). God doesn't lie.

The Judgment Day will most certainly come, as came to pass every other promise of God.

THE UNLYING GOD

Bill Reeves

God's promises always arise from his will
And so let no man think it odd
That never a promise was left to fulfill
That came from the unlying God.
Fulfillment is the sequel, of each promise made
By the great Amen, the true God.
The interval between be it long or short
God's feet with failure aren't shod.
From promise to fulfillment be it short or long
The pathway of time it has trod.
Rest assured that with certainty, so it will be
For t'was spoken by the unlying God.

Chorus

Our righteous God, Amen and Truth.
He is called, so do not deny
The absolute truthfulness of our God,
Who being pure truth cannot lie.

News and Notes:

Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, Robert Howard, Billy Grisham, Jerry and Karen Kennemur, and Ashley Creason (Robbie Doles's grand-daughter).

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Blake Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: *"Why Do Churches Use Instrumental Music?"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
Starting Page & Question: Herschel Patton
Page #24, Question #14

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Doug George
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Russell Briggs
Scripture Reading: *Colossians 3:16-17*
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Jerry Kennemur
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: *"Why Do Churches Refuse Instrumental Music?"*
Closing Prayer: Adam Harris

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

January 17, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: Preparing To Teach Our Neighbors
Author: Max Tice
Starting Page & Question: *Page #90, Question #2*
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Doug George

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Why Do Churches Use Instruments Of Music?”

Is There Scriptural Any Basis For It? **Col. 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:21 (NASB).**

I. “David Used Instruments Of Music In Worship.”

- Yes, David Did Use Instruments In Worship: **Psalm 150:3-5.**
- But that Was Under The Old Testament— We Live Under The New Testament Today.
- **Galatians 5:3-4.**

II. “It Is Simply Tradition To Use Or Not Use Instruments.”

- **Tradition:** a long-established custom or belief that has been passed on in this way.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:15.** Do We Know The Difference Between Man-Made And God’s?
- Or Are We Just “Cutting Off The End Of The Ham?”

III. “We Want To Be A More Modern, Contemporary Church.”

- We Don’t Want To Be Legalistic And Backward. **Jeremiah 6:16; 2 John 9.**
- This An Appeal To Be More Like The Churches Around Us. **1 Samuel 8:5.**

IV. “It Will Draw The Young People To Our Church.”

- What Draws Us Is Christ- **John 12:32.** Not Everyone Uses This Appeal To “What Works.”

V. “I Can Sing With Instrumental Music At Home, Why Not At Church?”

- This Comes From A Misunderstanding Of Individual Action & Collective Action Of The Church.
- We Can Eat A Meal At Home, But Not At Worship- **1 Corinthians 11:23-34.**
- What About Watching Television? Playing Games In Our Home? Entertainment?

VI. “The Majority Of The Religious World Uses Them.”

- What The Majority Does Or Doesn’t Do Is Not Our Standard- **2 Timothy 3:16-17.**
- Many Religious Groups Started Out Opposing Instrumental Music In Worship.
- Historically, Instruments Were Not Used Until The 7th Century. The Church Fathers Opposed.
- A cappella” Means In the Manner Of The Chapel (church).

VII. “Shouldn’t People Use Their Talents In Worship?”

- Yes, They Should. But In The Proper Way; Not Will Worship- **Colossians 3:17.**
- Cain Could’ve Argued The Same To God- **Genesis 4:2-5.**

VIII. “The Word Psalm Means To Sing And Play.”

- **Ephesians 5:19-** Uses The Greek Word “Psallo.”
- But The Greek Definition Has Changed, And No Longer Means To Use An Instrument.

IX. “There Are Harps Used In Revelation 14:2.”

- There Are Harps Used, But **Revelation 8:3** Has Incense Being Used Also.
- Revelation Uses types and Symbols In Its Apocalyptic Language; Not A Source For Doctrine.

X. “It Doesn’t Make Any Difference To God What Kind Of Music We Use.”

- Should Anyone Ever Presume To Speak For God? **1 Peter 4:11.**
- It Does Make A Difference In What We Do! **Leviticus 10:1-3.**
- After all, We’re Not Hurting Anyone; It Doesn’t Feel Wrong. **Proverbs 16:25.**

“Why Do Churches Refuse Instruments Of Music?”

Lesson Text: **Colossians 3:16-17.**

I. Misconceptions About Why Churches Refuse Instrumental Music.

- Not Because It's Just Our Tradition And Our Heritage As A Movement.
- Not Because We Just Don't Like Them In Worship— Our Preference.
- Not Because We Can't Afford Them. Most Churches Can, If They Choose To.
- Not Because We Don't Have Anyone Who Can Play Them.
- But Because It Is An Addition To The Worship And Therefore Wrong And Sinful.

II. Because There Is No Bible Authority For Instruments In Worship.

- How Do We Know When We Have Bible Authority For What We Say Or Do?
 - **exousia:** “Power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases; leave or permission.”
- It Is Established In Three Ways: **Thayer, J. H. (1889).**
 - Divine Statement (What God Says). **1 Corinthians 11:23.**
 - Approved Example (What N.T. Disciples Did). **Acts 20:7.**
 - Necessary Inference (Inescapable Conclusion) **Acts 20:7.**
- They Determined This About Circumcision:
 - Peter Spoke in **vs. 7-11.** Approved Example of Cornelius and Necessary Conclusion.
 - Paul And Barnabas Spoke in **vs. 12.** Approved Example And Necessary Conclusion.
 - James Spoke in **vs. 13-21.** Direct Statement And Necessary Conclusion.
- Only Ten Verses In The New Testament That Speak Of Music In Worship To God.
- **Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; 13:15; James 5:13.**
- None Of These Passages Have An Instrument Involved In Singing To God.

III. Because God's Silence Prohibits Instrumental Music In Worship.

- Often Said To Us: “The Bible Doesn't Say Not To Use Instruments In Worship.”
- Those Who Use Instruments Want A Verse To Prohibit It— But Fail To Prove It.
- God's Silence Has Been Used To Prohibit:
 - David's New Cart In **2 Samuel 6:3— 1 Chronicles 15:13.**
 - Nadab And Abihu's “Strange Fire” In **Leviticus 10:1-3.**
 - Prohibited Any Other Tribe But Levi From Being Priest- **Hebrews 7:11-14.**
- God Commanded And Regulated Instrumental Music In The Old Testament.
- **1 Chronicles 23:5; 2 Chronicles 29:25; Deuteronomy 12:32.**
- But No Command Or Ordinance For The Instrument In New Testament Times.
- The Same Is True Of Circumcision, Sabbath Keeping, Burning Of Incense, Food Laws...

IV. Because Instruments Of Music Cannot Be An Aid Or Expedient.

- Often Said To Us: “It's Just An Aid To Help Our Bad Singing.”
- The Reason Given For The Melodeon Introduced By L.L. Pinkerton, At Midway, Ky. In 1860.
- Chart By Robert Harkrider On Generic And Specific Authority Of Aids.
- Aids Or Expedients Are Always Used In Carrying Out What God Wants.
- There Is Not Regulation Or Authority For Instruments In Worship.