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Please Join us for Worship

Sundays

9:30am - Bible Study

10:20am & 5pm - Worship

Wednesdays

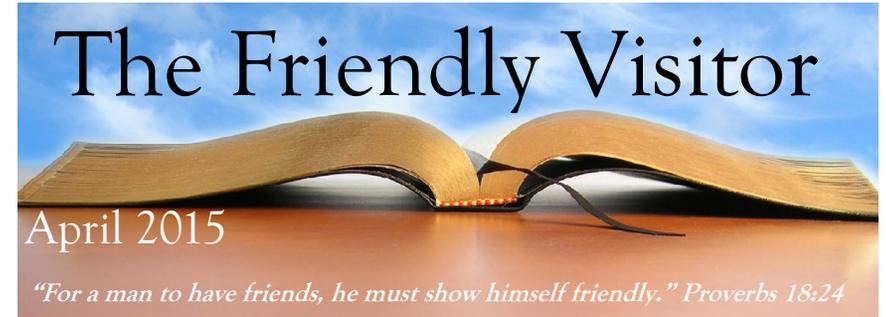
7pm - Bible Study

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What Kind of Mind?

"What kind of mind thinks God would care about something as insignificant as the playing or not playing of a musical instrument?" I have been asked that question several times over the years by different ones who "could not understand" why we did not have instrumental music in our worship. While I think the question is a valid one, it does strike me as odd that most of those who refer to our rejection of instrumental music as involving something insignificant, even trivial, do not consider it insignificant enough to leave off from their own



worship. Nevertheless, we want to give the question its proper consideration and seek to provide a biblical answer.

What kind of mind thinks instrumental music might matter to God? I believe it is frequently a mind that has carefully considered how God has dealt with man from the beginning and understands He has always demanded obedience in all things, even to the smallest of details. Consider a few examples that have led me to have a mind that thinks it matters. (If you are not familiar with these Bible stories or have not read them recently, please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with them.)

Adam and Eve. Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-24

When it came to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would it have been reasonable to argue that since God was the one who

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made the tree He could not possibly have wanted anyone to miss out on its pleasures? Or, since they only partook of the forbidden fruit the one time, wouldn't we expect God to overlook their transgressions? While those arguments might have appeal to the modern mind, Genesis 3 shows that Adam and Eve suffered severe consequences for this "little thing."

Lot's Wife. Genesis 19:17, 24-26

What kind of mind would have thought it could possibly matter if one "looked back?" If it were possible to interview the pillar of salt that once was Lot's wife, how do you suppose she would suggest we view God's commandments?

Nadab and Abihu. Leviticus 10:1-3

When these two sons of Aaron offered profane (or strange) fire which "He had not commanded them," fire went out from the LORD and devoured them. The kind of mind that thinks instrumental music might matter is the kind of mind that has come to understand God is to be approached only as He directs.

Moving the Ark. 2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 13, 15

Though God had told the Israelites the ark of the covenant was to be carried on the shoulders of the Levites (Numbers 4), David decided to put it on a new cart pulled by oxen. When the oxen stumbled and Uzza put out his hand to steady the ark he was struck dead. When Uzza was killed David was angry and puzzled, and even asked, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?" After a few months David came to understand what had happened and explained that Uzza was dead "because we did not consult [the LORD] about the proper order." The next time the ark was moved, David had the kind of mind that was determined to do it exactly "as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD."

Many more examples could be cited, but the key is realizing that God has spoken and given us the things He wants us to know (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). While we may not be able to find a verse that says, "You shall not use instrumental music," we do know that "little" things matter to the Lord and for us to add an instrument to the pattern which He has revealed is to put ourselves in danger. What kind of mind should we have? The mind that does not want to add to or take away

from the word, but instead seeks to take it just as it is written (Revelation 22:18, 19; Galatians 1:6-10).

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 3:16

John R. Gibson

When?

"Then He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.' They immediately left their nets and followed Him." Matthew 4:18, 19

What Andrew and Simon did is avoid the trap we are warned about in James 4:13-17 where we know to do good, but do not do it because we have other things we plan to do first. If there is something we need to do to be pleasing to God, let's do it immediately, for "you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

John R. Gibson

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"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."

2 John 1:9