

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Jennifer Derrick—scans 2/27
- ♦ Wilfred Derrick—kidneys not functioning well
- ♦ David Howze—good results

### Others in Need

- ♦ Willy Brackin—surgery recovery, no paralysis
- ♦ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ♦ Katie Gonzalez—6, rare disease
- ♦ Michael Hudson—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Lynn Johnson—health problems
- ♦ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Richard McCool—heart attack
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Shane Price—cancer
- ♦ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ♦ Cody Skinner—amp. leg, pain
- ♦ Ronnie Wells—health problems

Continued in next column...

♦ Earthquake victims in Turkey / Syria

- ♦ Christians overseas, Ukraine
- ♦ Sound Bible schools, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, the lost, our enemies.

## Events



**February 24**

*Faith and Fellowship*

**March 6-10**

*Gospel Mtg. in Silverhill, AL*

**May 7-11**

*Our Gospel Mtg., Jason Holladay speaking*

**June 4-7**

*Gospel Mtg. at Sasser*

**Faithful Worship** — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

## To Our Visitors

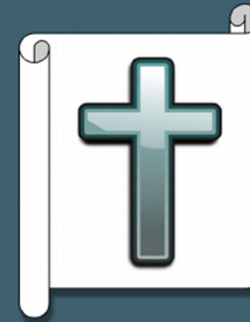


We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

## Privileged to Serve



**Announcements**—Leo Derrick  
**Song Leading**—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Caleb Howze  
**Serving the Lord's Supper**  
 Head: Glenn Howze; Helpers: Wilfred Derrick, Mark Howze, Johnny Moss  
**Lord's Supper PM**  
 Head: Glenn Howze  
 Helper: Mark Howze  
**Scripture Reading**—Ezra Howze



# THE BAKER BULLETIN

*The weekly bulletin of*

**The church of Christ in Baker, FL**

**February 19, 2023**

## Meeting Times

### Sundays:

- 10AM Bible Class
- 11AM Worship
- 6PM Worship

### Wednesdays:

- 7PM Bible Class

## Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4  
 P.O. Box 285  
 Baker, FL 32531 USA  
 850-669-9117

### Website:

churchofChristatBaker.com

### Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM  
 WAAZ1047.com livestream

### Jason Hilburn's Info:

850-826-8198  
 hilburnjasonp@gmail.com  
 TheBibleDomain.com  
 JasonsBibleBlog.com

## Will There Be Instrumental Music In Heaven?

By Kevin Cauley

Revelation 5:8 and other passages in the book of Revelation talk about there being harps in heaven. If there are instruments of music in heaven, why can we not use them here on the earth in worship to God?

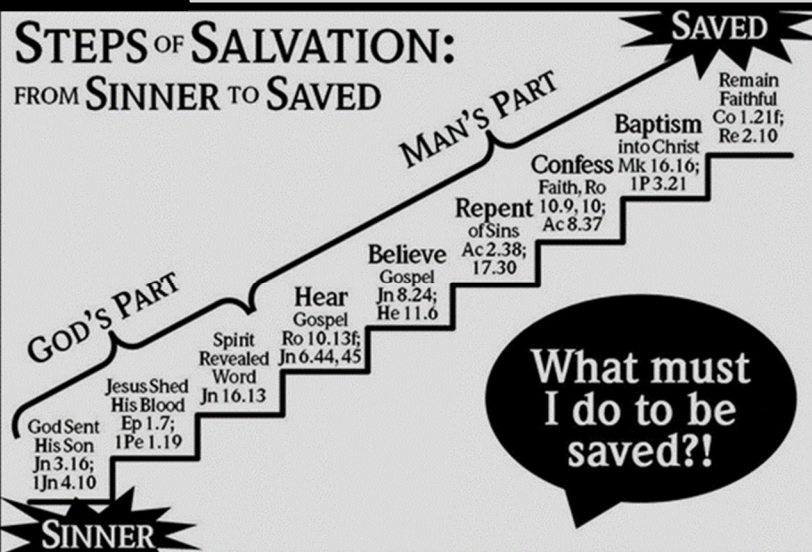
Frequently those who defend the use of instrumental music in the worship of the church appeal to the book of Revelation for justification of their worship practices. The following passages are cited and the instrument devotee will then say, "See, there are instruments used in worship to God in heaven. Therefore, one may use instruments in worship to God on earth." The passages are:

Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

Revelation 14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

## STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."  
 (Romans 6:17).



"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

Revelation 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Their argument stated in classical form would be as follows:

Major Premise: Anything that is permitted in worship in heaven is permitted in worship on earth in the church.

Minor Premise: Instruments of music are permitted in worship in heaven.

Conclusion: Instruments of music are permitted in worship on earth in the church.

The first thing that ought to be noted is that the major premise of the argument itself is flawed. The major premise of the argument is that anything that is permitted in worship in heaven is permitted in worship on earth. We ought to note that in the same context of Revelation 5:8 John speaks of golden vials full of incense. Are we thus allowed to burn incense in worship to God? According to the argument set forth by those who believe in instrumental music, we are. But where, other than in the highly symbolic book of Revelation, do we find in the New Testament the church offering incense in worship to God? We do not. There is simply no authority for it.

The second thing that ought to be noted is that the minor premise of the argument is flawed. The idea that instruments of music are permitted in worship in heaven is suspect because of the highly figurative context of the book of Revelation. In fact, in Revelation 5:8 John explains that the golden vials full of incense are in fact symbolic of the prayers of the saints. Why would instruments of music not be symbolic of the songs of the saints and not the literal instrument itself? Given the context, that ought to be the conclusion one should draw. In addition, it ought to be questioned whether or not these allegedly literal harps are literally in heaven as physical things. Heaven is a spiritual place (1 Corinthians

15:42-50), not a physical one and we know that all material things on the earth are going to be burned up at the end of time (2 Peter 3:10), but those who argue for the instrument must say, "They will all be burned up, EXCEPT for instruments of music! They will be preserved so that we may worship with them in heaven!" The very idea that in heaven, a spiritual place, we will be reduced to worshiping God with physical harps of wood and string is contradictory to everything the Bible teaches about the spiritual nature of heaven (see 2 Corinthians 4:18 and 2 Corinthians 5:1).

Finally, it is often overlooked by those arguing that in Revelation 14:2 John doesn't hear harpers, he hears the sound of harpers. The ASV translates the verse as follows: "And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and the voice which I heard was as the voice of harpers harping with their harps." The ESV translates it like this: "And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps." This passage gives no support to the USE of instruments of music in worship whatsoever. The Greek clearly includes the word *hws*, which means that the description of harpers harping with their harps is a simile to describe the sound that John heard. Just as the sound he heard was AS the voice of many waters and was AS the voice of great thunder, so also it was AS the voice of harpers harping with their harps. The figure of the water emphasizes the unity of what John heard; the figure of the thunder emphasizes the volume of what John heard, and the figure of the harps emphasizes the beauty of what John heard. But the fact of the matter is that what John heard was singing! That is what verse 3 tells us plainly; "and they sing as it were a new song before the throne..." Those who argue for the use of instruments of music in the worship of the church based upon these passages do nothing but show their biblical ignorance of God's word. The book of Revelation is stated at the outset to be a book of things that were put in signs, or signified (Revelation 1:1). To use such signs literally completely ignores the context of the book.

The real question that needs to be answered from those who defend the instrument is where, in the New Testament, is it authorized? There is not one single passage of New Testament scripture that authorizes the use of mechanical instruments of music in the worship of the church, and that is the bottom line.

*Editor's note: We do not recommend the ESV, which was only used in this article for comparison. Please contact me if you want more info about issues with the ESV.*