

Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

**Psalms 2:11**

## Store In My Heart

### Colossians 2:13-14

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Through the death of Jesus on the cross, we can live for eternity. Before that death the only hope was found in following the ordinances given to Israel through Moses. The cross ended that law and left us to the care of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Through Him we have life. The way of Christ provides a clear path to be with God for all eternity. This places an obligation on each of us to give attention to what Jesus has said for it is "with Him" that we are made alive.



# Is It Authorized?

**Ernest A. Finley**

Men often evidence their lack of understanding of Bible teaching in the fields of authority and expediency. When my brethren protest the use of mechanical instruments of music in the worship of God on the ground that there is no authority for them, they who use them reply that we should not bother ourselves with objecting to their unauthorized practices when we do many things in worship for which there is no authority. "Where," they ask, "do you find authority for a song book, or song director in worship?" Further, they ask, "Where do you find authority for a collection plate?" They ask likewise for our scriptural authority for benches, church buildings, and electric lights.

Is there authority for a song book or song director? Our confused friends say, "No." But in this matter they err. Their error grows out of a failure to recognize that there are certain expedients which may be used in the execution of a command. The command is to "*sing*" (**Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16,17**). Whenever one uses a song book in his worship, is he doing something in addition to that which the Lord authorized? No, he is doing simply what He commanded -- just singing. Whether a song director is used or not does not change the fact that the congregation is doing only, simply, and no more, than that which the Lord authorized. The fact that a man is standing before the congregation directing the singing does not take the action out of the realm of the Lord's authorized act of worship, singing. It is not some other kind of music. It is not something in addition to what the Lord commanded, for the director is just singing like everyone else. He thus serves to expedite the Lord's command. But observe that the Lord's command is specific. He did not command that we simply make music. If He had given such a generic command, then the individual would be at liberty to make any kind of music in worship, whether vocal or by mechanical instruments. When one plays a piano or organ in worship, he is not doing an act which the Lord has authorized, as is true when one

simply sings, but has left the area of the specific kind of music that is authorized, simply singing, and has gone into an area of generic music-making where the Lord has given us no authority to act.

An expedient must serve in the actual accomplishment of the very act which the Lord has authorized. When a song book or a song director is utilized, something in addition to what the Lord has authorized is NOT being done. Singing, that which the Lord authorized, is all that is being done. But a mechanical instrument is an addition. Something is being done that the Lord did not command. The specific command is ignored and the kind of music offered is taken out of the realm of the specific and placed in the realm of the generic. In this, man assumes authority which the Lord has not delegated to him. The use of mechanical instruments of music in worship is using another type of music other than just singing. So this adds to the command the Lord has given to simply sing with our vocal chords in our worship to Him. It is going beyond what He has authorized. (**2John 9**).

The church building, benches, and lights are defensible on the ground of expediency. These facilities all serve to expedite a command, the command to teach. To these may be added tables, chairs, blackboards, projectors, etc. In utilizing these facilities, the church is not doing something in addition to that which the Lord authorized but is doing simply that which the Lord commanded, the work of teaching. A church building also expedites the command to assemble (**Hebrews 10:25**). If there is to be an assembly, there must be a place to assemble. The church may assemble in a rented hall, under a brush arbor, in a private house, under the shade of a tree, or in a building which the church owns. It is not imperative that the church have a building in which to assemble, because such is not specifically authorized, but a church building or any other expedient place of meeting is authorized under the command to assemble. The above mentioned facilities simply serve to expedite the command to assemble. Thus, the church, in using whatever facilities she may find at hand or purchase for the purpose of assembling, is not doing something for which there is no authority, but is doing that simply which the Lord commanded - assembling (**Hebrews 10:25**).

## For Our Information

John Ragsdale received blood on Wednesday. He is sleeping much of the time and has no appetite. Betty Ragsdale is very tired and has not felt well the last week or so.

Paula Laubach has an appointment with the lung doctor in the next few days. She is also helping Deana as she continues to recover from her surgery.

Brenda Keisler is gradually improving, and is still taking physical therapy.

Dottie Henderson, Dan's Mom, had a rough night early last week and has some trouble sleeping. She was better the last few days.

Sunday Evening - **Psalm 5**. Wednesday Evening - **James 3:17**

Keep one another in your prayers each day.

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!