

# The Use of Mechanical Instruments in the Worship of God?

by **BOB CASEY**, preacher  
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This past Friday evening we gathered at the church building and enjoyed a great evening of fellowship; singing praises to the Lord. There were several churches from different places who came to add and share their voice with us. We had several folks from the Lord's church, some from the Methodists, Church of God; Baptists also. Doing this, we can meet the Lord on his terms as we offer him the fruit of our lips. **Hebrews 13:15** endorses it to be so.

Many ask us from time to time, saying, "You people don't use instruments when you sing, why not?" Many will say this with a smug attitude as to illustrate that they have all judged us as being fanatics. But, let me assure all our readers that the reason that we choose to not use them is ingrained in the Word of God. First, let me begin by noting what Christ has said in **Revelation 22:18-19**. Notice that this is the Lord's **firm, last** commandment given unto all of us which says, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, **If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."**

Friends, if I, personally, were to attempt to do this, it would frighten me out of my wits, but sadly, many have, and are continuing to do so, as if the Lord has not already warned not to do so.

Many will return to the Old Testament and read

where the people used many kinds of instruments in their worship, and with the Lord's approval. But, let me remind all of us that we are not living under the Law today. The Apostle Paul encountered the problem in the churches of Galatia where many false teachers were telling them in order to be a completed Christian that they also had to keep the Law of Moses. He warned them in **Galatians 1:5-10**, not to listen to them. Then in **chapter 2, verse 16**, he says that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but by faith of Jesus Christ. He goes on to say (**verse 18**), "For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." Read carefully, the book of Galatians. It tackles all their misunderstandings. One more verse for the sake of argument. **Galatians 3:11** says, "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith." There are several verses in the New Testament that give us instruction on what to do in worship. First, in **Ephesians 5:19**, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" Then in **Colossians 3:16**, it says, "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." Then in **Hebrews 2:12**, "Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee." And there are several more that could be used to justify the singing only among the Lord's people. So, what will people use when they attempt to justify the playing of mechanical things when they sing? There are no passages in the New Testament that give us authority for their use. If so, where are they?

For your inquiry about this topic, we offer free and postpaid to your mail box, Bible information on the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles about it. Just call us any time to receive yours at 1-859-369-4165. We hope you will.

Sincerely, Bob Casey

## Americanisms



"If you run from technology, it will chase you."  
 —Robert M. Pirsig

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Matthew in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Where did the angel Gabriel appear to Mary saying, "Blessed art thou among women."? Nazareth, Tyre, Ninevah, Gazi
3. From Luke, the reason Jesus was born in Bethlehem was that His "father" had to attend ... ? Feast, Fast,

Sacrifice, Census  
 4. Who was Herod's information source as to where the Christ Child was to be born? Joseph, Reuben, Micah, Matthew  
 5. For the journey to Bethlehem, how did Mary and Joseph travel? Bible not specific, Walked, Rode donkey, Boat  
 6. Of these, which wasn't a gift from the wise men (Magi)? Silver, Myrrh, Gold, Frankincense

Answers on bottom of Page 11

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## seeds of Hope



What is joy? Is it a feeling? An attitude? An emotion? Is it something we "get" or "discover" or "find" on the road of life? Is it temporary or permanent? Can it be passed from one person to another? Is it internal or external? Is it possible it could be all of the above?

Things were not going well for Moses. He knew that something was missing in the lives of the Hebrews and he knew what it was: joy. They had been through difficult days and trying times. They grumbled and groaned and griped. They were critical of their conditions and angry with God. Why, they wondered, did they leave what they had for something they had been promised but could not find. They were dis-

enchanted and discouraged.

So, Moses, the man of God, knew what to do: He went to God in prayer. "Relent, O Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on Your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days."

Moses reminded God that He was a God filled with unfailing love. In earnestness he begged God to show His compassion and relent — "We've suffered long enough! When we awaken tomorrow morning," he prayed, "fill our empty hearts with a renewed awareness of Your unfailing love." Moses knew that only God could restore the "joy of their salvation" and the blessings that repentance brings.

Often we become like the Israelites - wanting God's blessings without being faithful to Him. Hearts once filled with joy are empty because of sin. It's time to repent!

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## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

ISAIAH 64:4

Since **ancient times** no **one** has **heard**, no **ear** has **perceived**, no **eye** has **seen** any **God** besides **you**, who **acts on behalf of those** who **wait for him**.

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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## Sharing Among Believers

(Acts 4:32-35)

32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. 34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, 35 And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

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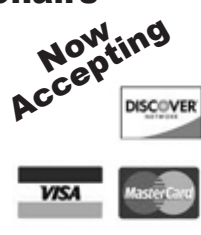
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## Kitchen Diva

### Give Cookies for Christmas

by ANGELA SHELF MEDEARIS

Freshly baked cookies are a wonderful holiday gift. Hosting family and friends for a cookie exchange party is a great way to start a new holiday tradition and get a variety of baked goods and some new recipes without spending much money. A cookie exchange party also is an inexpensive way to entertain because the cookies provided by your guests are the centerpiece of the party, and everyone leaves with a variety of cookies as a parting gift.

You also can host a cookie bake and exchange party. Since everyone is so busy, buying good quality cookie mixes and having the guests stir them up, bake and decorate them can become a party activity.

The first cookie exchange party started more than 70 years ago. It was usually a social event for women and was extremely popular with women's clubs and church groups. Each person baked one or two dozen of their favorite cookies and exchanged one with each person in attendance. The party also offered a wonderful way to collect the personal stories behind the cookies. Sharing stories also acts as an ice-breaker and a way for guests to get to know each other.

Here are a few tips for hosting a cookie party exchange, plus a great recipe for my mother's Peanut Butter Cookies.

- Invite eight to 12 people for the best variety of cookies and conversation. Traditionally, everyone attending brings a dozen of one kind of cookie, squares or candies for each of the other people in attendance, plus one dozen for themselves and an extra dozen for the "sample plate."

Since this would require a huge amount of baking, I suggest that each person bring three dozen cookies: two dozen to exchange and a dozen for sample plate. Although each guest might not get one of each cookie to take home, this makes the event more of a real party, as your guests won't feel pressured to turn their kitchens into a bakery. Suggest that they wrap each dozen they are bringing separately.

- Send invitations by email or regular mail a few weeks ahead of the party. Specify a start and end time for your party. Send email reminders a week ahead of time. Remind guests to bring a large container so that they can take their cookie assortment home.

• Avoid duplication of cookies/recipes by asking guests to RSVP and tell you about the cookies that they will bring. You might want to suggest selecting a recipe that has a special family meaning or one that is traditional to their background. This is a great way to learn about the traditions and recipes of other cultures and ethnic groups.

- Ask each guest to bring a copy of their recipe to pass around with a little information about the origin or memory associated with the cookie. Having a list of the ingredients also ensures that people with food allergies can protect their health.

- If the cookies or candies have been frozen, label them "Previously Frozen."

- Set a beautiful table and arrange all the cookies as the guests arrive.

- Create separate sample cookie and exchange cookie areas -- either ends of a table or on separate small tables. Keep each recipe on its own plate.

- Design the table or areas in a layout that provides easy access to the treats from all sides.

- Eating sweets induces thirst! Have self-serve pitchers of ice and sparkling water on hand along with warm and cool drinks, cups, plates and napkins.

This is a gathering where you can make your own rules and traditions, like baking these Easy Four-Ingredient Peanut Butter Cookies every year. Relax, and don't forget to enjoy your own party!



Photo credit: Depositphotos.com

### EASY 4-INGREDIENT PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

- 1 cup sugar, plus 3 tablespoons for sprinkling
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Heat oven to 350 F, and line a large cookie sheet with parchment paper.

2. In a large bowl, stir all four ingredients together until smooth.

3. Using a tablespoon measure, scoop out 2 tablespoons of cookie dough and roll into a smooth ball.

4. Place pre-rolled cookies on your cookie sheet about 1-inch apart. Press down with the back of a fork and then press again from the opposite direction to form a criss-cross pattern.

5. Bake for 10 minutes, turn cookie sheet and continue baking for another 5 to 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with the remaining sugar. Cool cookies on sheet pan for 1-2 minutes before moving them to a wire rack to finish cooling. Makes 12-15 cookies.

6. Store in an air-tight container for up to 3 days.

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Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is [www.divapro.com](http://www.divapro.com). To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

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