



June 4, 2006 (Vol. 6)

TRUTH - The Way God Sees It (4)

by Douglas W. Hill
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Let us continue considering examples of what people consider truth based upon human doctrines & traditions.

4. **"We can use musical instruments in worship and please God."** Many believe this. Many practice this. But that does not make it Biblically true.

Many have attempted to prove it from passages like Psalm 150, but please note, we are not under the Old Law (Gal. 2:21). I wonder at this greatly. Why? Because it is ironic that those who claim to follow after the grace in Christ will then appeal to the Old Law for justification. The Bible plainly says you are "fallen from grace" & "are severed from Christ" if you appeal to the Old Law as your standard of justification (Gal. 5:4). You cannot rightly appeal to it to **prove** something is right that is not first authorized by Christ.

So, some appeal to the harps in heaven in Rev. 5:8, 14:2 or 15:2. But note also, that is not where we are. We are on earth. And further, the book of Revelation is a book of symbols and signs (Rev. 1:1). Harps thus **represent** happiness (cp. Ps. 137:2). But even so, note that Rev. 5:8 shows they had golden bowls of incense in one hand & harps in the other. Unless they had a third hand, how did they play

them? In fact, the text specifically says they **"sing** a new song" (5:10). It does not say the played. In Rev. 14:2 there is a voice from heaven that is **AS** many waters, **AS** a great thunder, **AS** of harpers harping. It does not say that harpers were harping. And again, Rev. 15:2. They had harps but only **sang** (15:3). So what do these passages (which are figurative language anyway) allow us to do here and now on earth in worship? Not what people wish they did.

Friends, it is not that we are arbitrary. Nor is it that we are poor. Nor is it that we dislike instruments. It is not about us at all. **It is about God.** True faith comes from His word (Rom. 10:17), not our personal likes, traditions and preferences. And the **ONLY** kind of music God has authorized in worship is **singing** spiritual songs, hymns & psalms (Eph. 5:19). That does not say hum a tune, drum a beat, dance a jig, strum a guitar, bang a piano or blow a horn. **It says what God wants.** And who are we to dare add to, change or modify the word of the Most Holy Spirit? Whoever alters God's word is "anathema" - accursed (Gal. 1:6-9). Thus, we are to submit and yield to Him, not dictate to Him what He should be pleased with. Are you in submission to God?
(To be continued)

"FISHING"

edited

There was a fishing organization the loved fishing. The gathered regularly to talk about all the different kinds of fish in the world, all the best fishing places, what kinds of rods were available and lures and baits. There was even great discussion on the best technique to use when casting. From time to time they would invite in guest speakers who with great enthusiasm would extol the virtues of fishing.

Some would build nice fishing halls, where they could talk about fishing in a more comfortable setting and appear respectably established to society.

But sadly, one thing was missing in all their enthusiasm. They didn't go fishing. They didn't actually cast the rods into the water. Perhaps it was fear that they would do it wrong. Perhaps it was just easier to let someone else do the fishing. Perhaps they were concerned that they might not catch anything or might have a bad experience.

But one thing is for sure: They didn't catch any because they didn't try.

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Mt. 4:19)

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Home Bible Study** – Sat., June 10, 24.
- **Business Meeting** – Sun. June 25 @ 5pm.
- **Gospel Meeting** - Ron Roberts, Oct.15-20, 2006.
- **Men's & Ladies Classes** - Tues, June 13 @ 7 pm.

PRAY FOR

Mag Bumbalough, Greg Capps, Sabrina Capps, Thelma Cunningham, Donald Eller, Holly Jernigan (Joyce Gardner's niece has cancer), **John Ross Key** (Mary Cox's son), **Marci Miller** (Alisa Fletcher's mother), **Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Rose Taylor, Doris Williams, Wayne Williams** (Doris' son), **Horace Jones** (Doris William's brother), **Ruth Williams** (Betty England's niece), **Robert England** (White County

Hospital Room #105), **Ocia Bell-Jones & Charlie Jones** (Mother & brother to Doris Williams); **Sheila Eller & Laken Eller; Greg Sims** (Ralph Sims' nephew, recovering from open heart).

Those in Iraq: Jason Zelenak (Alisa Fletcher's brother), **Cary Matheny**.

We Invite You To All Our Services!

Sunday Bible Study	9 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7 pm

North Sparta church of Christ

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Place
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