Intro: Mechanical instrumental music in worship to God today is a problem in the Lord’s church. Just about every religious organization today has accepted them into their worship, even though this was not always the case. Years ago, the majority rejected their use in worship, but most have changed.

I. **We Must Have Authority For All We Do.**

   A. Scriptures so state:
      1. Mat. 21:23-27 “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? 24And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? 26But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. 27And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.”
         a. Authority either comes from God or man.
         b. If from man; Mat. 15:9 “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
      2. Col. 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

   B. **We must not change or alter God’s Word.**
      1. Gal. 1:8-9 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”
      2. Rev. 22:18-19 “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: 19And 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.”

II. **We Are Subject To The New Testament**

   A. **Christ is the one with authority now**
      1. Mat. 17:5 “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”
      2. Acts 3:22-23 “For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. 23And it shall come to
pass, *that* every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.”

3. Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all *things* to the church, *2*Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

**B. The Old Testament has been taken away.**

1. Eph. 2:15 “Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;”

2. Col. 2:14 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”

3. Heb. 7:12 “For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.”

**III. THE NEW TESTAMENT AUTHORIZES SINGING**

**A. What the Scriptures say:**

1. Acts 16:25 “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.”

2. Rom. 15:9 “And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.”

3. 1 Cor. 14:15 “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”

4. Eph. 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”

5. Col. 3:16 “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.”

6. Heb. 13:15 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.”


**B. Notice some arguments:**

1. It is going beyond:

   a. The use of things not mentioned in New Testament worship is going beyond; 2 John 9-11 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. **10**If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: **11**For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”

   b. The use of mechanical instrumental music in New Testament worship is not mentioned.

   c. Therefore the use of mechanical instrumental music in New Testament worship is going beyond.
2. **It is transgression:**
   a. To go beyond that which is written in the New Testament law of worship is transgression; 1 Cor. 4:6 “And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.”
   c. Therefore, the use of mechanical instrumental music in the New Testament worship is transgression.

3. **Transgression is sin:**
   a. All transgression of the law is sin; 1 John 3:4 “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”
   b. The use of mechanical instrumental music in the New Testament worship is transgressions the law.
   c. Therefore, the use of mechanical instrumental music in the New Testament worship is sin.

IV. **Arguments Used by Those Supporting Mechanical Instrumental Music**

A. **We want it, it sounds good to us.**
   1. This makes man God and God man.
   2. It totally ignores what the Bible says.

B. **It is nothing but an aid or expedient.**
   1. For something to be an expedient, it must first be authorized, but there is no authorization for the instrument.
   2. A true aid will be implied in the authorized command or act and are thereby themselves authorized; the instrument is not implied in sing.
   3. An aid or expedient does not add to or altar that which is authorized.

C. **It is not condemned in the New Testament.**
   1. This is working on principle that whatever is not specifically condemned in Scripture is allowed.
   2. Those who hold this position will not be consistent with it.
      a. They will only use it with things they desire to have.
      b. They will not allow:
         1. rosary beads
         2. potatoes and coke on the Lord’s Supper
3. Mechanical instrumental music and the Sabbath.
   a. The New Testament mentions mechanical instrumental music 41 times without a word of condemnation.
   b. The New Testament mentions the Sabbath 58 times without a word of condemnation.
   c. However, mechanical instrumental music is not mentioned in the New Testament in connection with Christian worship even one time!

D. The Greek word ψαλλω (psallo) allows its usage.
1. Those in the first century would have known its meaning, and they did not use instruments (they first appearance was in the 6th century).
2. The radical meaning is to touch.
   a. The object touched was not inherent in the word.
   b. The applied meanings:
      (1) To pluck the hair.
      (2) To twang the bowstring.
      (3) To twitch a carpenter’s line.
      (4) To touch the chords of a musical instrument (make mechanical instrumental music),
      (5) To touch the chords of the human heart (to sing, celebrate with hymns of praise).
3. Words change meaning over time.
   a. E. A. Sophocles identified several periods of Greek.
      (1) Mythical (prior to Homer)
      (2) Ionic (Homer to 500 B.C.)
      (3) Attic (500 B.C. to 283 B.C.)
      (4) Alexandrian (283 B.C. to 146 B.C.)
      (5) Roman (146 B.C. to A.D. 330)
      (6) Byzantine (A.D. 330 to A.D. 1453)
   b. During the Mythical, Ionic, and Attic periods, it had the idea of plucking or twanging of any kind.
   c. By the Christian and Roman period, it had lost its notion of an instrument altogether.
4. The lexical evidence is clearly that the word means “to sing.”

E. They were used in the Old Testament and in heaven.
1. The Old Testament is not our authority for New Testament worship.
2. There are many things used in the Old Testament which would be wrong if used today (i.e., sacrificial offerings, Passover, circumcision, polygamy, incense, Sabbath, etc.).
3. What one might do in heaven is not our authority for worship during this time.
   a. They are not willing to accept all the things regarding heaven for today.
   b. They will not accept incense; Rev. 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.”
   c. There is no marriage in heaven; Mat. 22:29-30 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. 30For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

Conclusion: Simply put, there is no God-given authority for the use of mechanical instrumental music in worship to God during the New Testament period. To use them is to reject the authority of the New Testament.