

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC & ATONEMENT

(WHY DISALLOWING IT IN WORSHIP IS NECESSARY)

### A. Faithful Christians are always on a quest for truth.

1. We may come by it through personal endeavor (study of the Word).
2. We may have it by heritage, OR we may not since our ancestors may have been misled.
3. That is why it is so important to use the proper standard in our determination of what is true.
4. We seek only to identify with the teaching & practice of the inspired apostles & prophets through their writings in the New Testament.
5. In that sense, our quest is identical to Christians of the second century.

### B. The question about the use of *mi* in worship is a fair question.

1. Because they are so commonly employed today.
2. And also because there is a resurgence of the idea that “it is not that big a deal.”
3. Someone may say, “Even if it is wrong, it certainly is not as bad as some sins.”
  - a. People act as though sin is like a minor traffic violation, like a parking ticket.
4. The harsh truth is that all sin is disobedience to God’s will; sin is an act of unbelief, which will carry the penalty of separation from God (1 Jn 3:4; Heb 13:12).

[In our guilt, we have all tried to convince ourselves that our sin wasn’t as bad as those others had committed.]

## I. HISTORICAL INSIGHT

A. An examination of 2 Chron. 29 gives us some insight as to why we cannot use mi in worship.

**2 Kings 18:1-5** – Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that **Hezekiah** the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. 2 He was twenty-five years old when he became king, & he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. 3 And **he did what was right in the sight of the LORD**, according to all that his father David had done. 4 He removed the high places & broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image & broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, & called it Nehushtan. 5 **He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.**

**2 Chron 29:5-6** – Hezekiah said to them: "Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, & carry out the rubbish from the holy place. 6 For our fathers have trespassed & done evil in the eyes of the LORD our God; they have forsaken Him, have turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the LORD, & turned their backs on Him.

1. Throughout Israel's history, there were several occasions where the people were encouraged to follow a simple restoration principle, which would take them back to God—"Go back to God's law & learn what His will is on the matter, then begin to practice it."

B. MI (musical instruments) were used in Temple worship, of that there is no doubt.

**2 Chron 29:27-28** – Then Hezekiah commanded them to offer the burnt offering on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, **the song of the LORD also began, with the trumpets & with the instruments of David king of Israel.** 28 So all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, & the trumpeters sounded; **all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.**

1. Notice that the use of mi began & ended with the sacrificing of the burnt offering.
2. In fact, throughout Israel's history, mi bore a direct connection to the sacrificial system of worship under the Law (**Numbers 10:1-10**).
3. Going back to the worship service that Hezekiah directed, notice what occurred after the burnt offerings were made to the LORD.

**2 Chron 29:29-30** – And when they had finished offering, **the king & all who were present with him bowed & worshiped** 30 Moreover King Hezekiah & the leaders commanded the Levites to sing praise to the LORD with the words of David & of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness, & they bowed their heads & worshiped.

[So after the atoning sacrifice was made for sin, the *mi* ceased to be used – it was at that point the personal worship of God began.]

## II. NEW TESTAMENT INSIGHT

A. The NT writers tell us that Christ is our one & only sin offering.

**Heb 9:26** – He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, ***once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.***

**Heb 10:11-18** – And every priest stands ministering daily & offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 ***But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever,*** sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 ***For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*** 15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, & in their minds I will write them," 17 then He adds, "Their sins & their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

**1 Pet 2:24** – ***who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree,*** that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

[**When** Christ made the atoning sacrifice for our sins, He forever annulled the covenant God made with Israel, which commanded the playing of *mi* over the sacrifice (Col 2:14; Heb 10:9-10).

**So** now that Christ has made the atoning sacrifice for our sins, how are we are to respond?]

## III. OUR RESPONSE TO HIS ATONING WORK

A. **Many** would have us believe that we can respond to God's love, & the atoning sacrifice of Christ, by any method of worship we choose.

1. They say "God accepts many different kinds of worship today."
2. Jesus put that idea to rest in when He spoke to the Samaritan woman (Jn 4:24).

**Heb 13:11-15** – For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. 12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood,

suffered outside the gate. 13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. 14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. 15 **Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.**

**Eph 5:18-20** – And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, **singing & making melody in your heart to the Lord**, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Col 3:16-17** – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching & admonishing one another in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, **singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord**. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

## CLOSING

- **If God** could express His will under the old covenant plain enough for Hezekiah to understand it, what makes people think that God's will today regarding His worship is vague, uncertain & left up to human discretion & interpretation?
- **Today**, the use of mi in the worship of God is tantamount to rejecting the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.