

Where In The Bible?

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QUESTION: Where in the Bible do we find a building in which a local church or congregation assembles called “a church”?

ANSWER: Nowhere! The word “church” is consistently applied to a collective of Christians who comprised “a church” (Acts 8:1, 3; 11:26; 13:1; 14:27 — this last passage shows that they were the church at Antioch whether assembled or not). Sometimes the Greek word (**EKKLESIA** — “the called out”) is applied to an assembly or gathering of such Christians (1 Corinthians 11:18; 14:19, 28), but it is never applied to a building in which Christians met.

QUESTION: Where in the Bible do we read about Christians using mechanical instruments of music in their worship of God?

ANSWER: It simply isn’t there! Every passage in the New Testament that has to do with music in the worship offered to God by Christians **specifies singing**. What did God want? Singing! What did God require? Singing! What did Christians offer? Singing! Jesus and His apostles **sang** (Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26). Christians **sang** (Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16 and Hebrews 2:12). There is nothing in the New Testament authorizing the use of mechanical instruments of music with our singing. We know that God accepts vocal music, even commanding it. Mechanical instruments of music were gradually introduced into worship by some professing to be Christians beginning a few hundred years after the close of the first century. Their introduction into the Roman Catholic Church and into many Protestant churches was opposed by many of the leaders in those churches — among them, St. Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Charles Spurgeon.

All of the foregoing is said in the interest of bringing out what the Bible **does** teach in contrast to what many **think** it teaches. The Bible is our standard, a perfect standard, which we must follow, and which will be the standard of our judgment by the Son of God in the last day.

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