

Music and the Christian

I was out in L.I. with my lost friend Louis last week. I was relaxing and thinking about how I would witness to him yet again ... All of a sudden he turns on the radio and I get a real jolt of worldly, wicked music. I had given this kind of music up some time ago, but I did experience a slight tingle of emotion.

I was going to deal with a totally different subject today; I usually don't teach this kind of thing, but the Lord put it in my heart to devote this time to something that can be very destructive to the life of a Christian – and I do mean music.

When I was growing up I was addicted to rock music.

It would move my body and my mind.

It affected the way I acted and the way I thought about the world and the way I thought about people.

Music becomes like a drug to some people.

It can be a tool for altering conscience. If there's an altering of conscience what is the direction? It is one completely contrary to the Christian way of life.

I had to have it blasting in my headphones no matter what I was doing.

/* And of course, there movie “A Clockwork Orange”, where music drove men to lust and murder. It made music more exciting */

And getting rid of the all the bad music in my head was very difficult.

But the aim is to be a better Christian and have a better state of mind.

Philippians 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, [being] of one accord, of one mind.

Philippians 2:3 [Let] nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

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Music, like anything else in the world, can be used for good or for evil.

Lucifer's fall (Ezek. 28:11-19) evidently led to the perversion of music, so that its improper use could be offensive to God.

Lucifer was himself a musical instrument –

Ezekiel 28:13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone [was] thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

'taberats' - musical instruments A taberat is a drum, so we must be careful of rhythm instruments and winds instruments.

'pipes' – organs are being used quite a bit in rock music with drums, guitars (a rhythm instrument).

Satan originally directed the heavenly choir and the sons of God, who sang. Now he's taking music that was originally made to worship God and he's devolved it or degenerated music it to where it worships him.

Where he once directed it to worship God he has since directed it in the worship of him and he's used it in religions to bring about his worship and thru paganism, etc. Thus, we have to be careful with music. The devil knows how to get a hold of you through music.

Amos 5:23 Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

Amos 6:5 That chant to the sound of the viol, [and] invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;

Music is a language

As Christians, we should be repulsed by bad language and try to avoid even listening to it.

/* I went to OTB one day just to sit there and remember the way I was in the horse-playing days and how I'm not like that anymore.

The cursing was so extreme ... this MF jockey ... he never does good with that MF horse ...

Then when the race was over people would tear up their tickets and throw them in the air – cursing. */

But music is also a language – one that can be very vulgar. And the words can come with a background beat, which can negatively effect your emotions.

<p>Music is readable, writable and recitable. <u>It is a language that portrays a moral value to our lives.</u></p>
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Look at the similarities:

*** Language has letters and words.**

Music has notes and cords.

*** Language has sentences and paragraphs.
has cords and phrases.**

Music

*** Language has paragraphs and chapters.
has sections and movements.**

Music

*** Language has chapters and books.
has movements and composition.**

Music

**As we just said, Music is a language. You get
inspiration from both music and writing.**

And Music is an emotional language ...

But not all emotions are good!

Hate directed at a fellow Christian is a sin. →

**Lust is never right, it is an adulteration of a
God-given emotion. →**

**Since music is an emotional language and
since some emotions are wrong for the
Christian, → then some music is wrong
for the Christian.**

Music is an intermediary, a tool which causes people to enter into the act of worship.

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had made an image and wanted to get the people to fall down and worship it. He used music in accomplishing this because it's an emotional tool and there was no language barrier.

/* He was a great type of the Antichrist, who will be the king over 'mystery' Babylon and will also construct an image to be worshipped in the Tribulation. */

Anyway -

*Daniel 3:15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; [well]: but if ye worship not, **ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace**; and who [is] that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?*

- **These people fell down and worshipped the image of Nebuchadnezzar.**

So, Music is an intermediary, a tool which causes people to enter into the act of worship. Nebuchadnezzar chose music because it is an **emotional tool, there was no**

language barrier. **Music is a form of non-verbal communication. Words are not needed.**

The Christian can spiritually apply Daniel 3:15 (although its not doctrine for us - Remember the RD class?). If you live right and do right you're going to experience a fiery trial, maybe a lot. But we still go through the fiery trial and our **faith is tried by fire.**

1Peter 1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

However, we can put on the breastplate of faith and love.

1Thessalonians 5:8 But+ let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

This is similar to the armour of God in Ephesians 6. The most vulnerable part of the body is the heart, which your faith and love emanate from, so it should be covered by a breastplate.

When trials come many of us embrace an attitude of resentment and grow angry at God. But in dealing with the trials of life one should have an attitude of gratitude.

1Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Why does God want us to give thanks for the bad things?

Because all things work together for good. The bad things sometimes do us better than the good things.

/* stop the preaching and start teaching */

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Anyway,

Some Christians say Music is merely your 'personal taste'. It's not.

It should be judged by Scripture.

Research shows that 34% of your character is developed thru the music you listen to. The "media" is communicating a message(s) to you through the words contained in music. **Sometimes even subliminally. /* silent sounds - used in the military */**

This is the word that should be foremost in the mind of the Christian:

Colossians 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.

Psalms 9:2 I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

/ Of course, the book of Psalms is **loaded** with similar Scripture. */*

Psalms 119:54 Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

- sing His statutes in your heart

Here the 'house' is your body.

God sang and played instruments

Zechariah 9:14 And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord GOD shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south.

Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee [is] mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

God is to be the music of the Christian. Music is thus part of God's very nature.

God is not only our salvation, our strength, but He is also our music:

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God [is] my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH [is] my strength and [my] song; he also is become my salvation.

When you become His child the music becomes new also.

It helps to mold your character.

We can listen to certain secular, not just sacred music. Classical is OK. Early musicals have good music too. But good secular music today is hard to find.

1Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

1Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

'evil' - every form

- **if it looks bad it can wipe out your testimony**

The music you listen to must reflect God's character - holiness, purity, righteousness, justice and order.

Music tends to reproduce itself in human conduct. Sometimes riots break out in concerts. Classical has a different spiritual level than 20th century music. It is a question of the motive and morality of the music.

Music influences our emotions, gives us feelings which can said to be experiences. Experiences are a vital factor in the molding of our character.

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Next: WHEN YOU GET SAVED: YOU BECOME NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST.

2Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- **It includes music.**

Part of the new life includes new music – getting rid of the old.

/* When I threw out all my old rock music it was a traumatic experience. */

1Chronicles 16:23 Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day his salvation.

Ephesians 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

**- Establish what is acceptable unto the Lord.
Determine what is good and positive.**

But you should also -

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [them].

His command is to avoid the bad, but many Christians stop at Ephesians 5:11.

Dissecting rock music

1) The main characteristic of rock music

*** The most important characteristic of rock and roll is the driving beat. The heavy emphasis is the beat.**

- rock and roll tends to have the accent on the 2nd and 4th beat in the measure. Regular music has a '1234' beat. Rock is "1'23'4'". The body likes it.

The beat is heavy. The body wants to move to the rhythm you hear.

- repetition and loud volume:

Music will hypnotize you through the use of a lot of repetition.

When overused it becomes the primary tool for hypnotism, which itself does the same thing over and over.

It is thru our bodies that we first respond to the rhythm of the music.

Researcher Steven Halpin states in: "Tuning the human instrument"

- Words aren't the primary factor. You dance to the beat. You can plug your ears, but rock music was still felt even if not heard. Deaf people can feel the sounds. The body reacts to the sounds of the music - even in people who can hear.

The 'backbeat' in classical music is not constant, but for emphasis. In rock music it's constant.

2) What is communicated in rock music?

Rock music has an appeal to sexual desire. The rock experience is essentially erotic. And sound is what's important, more so than the words.

But we're still to reflect this:

Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to [fulfil] the lusts [thereof].

- We have to look at worldly music as Christians:

1John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1John 2:16 For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart [is] not with thee.

3) Three effects that music has on people

a) It CAN have a *physical* effect –

David's playing made king Saul well physically –

1Samuel 16:23 And it came to pass, when the [evil] spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

b) Music also affects you *mentally* -

Sound penetrates the body and leaves its mark even when the ears are blocked.

We hear not only with our ears, but with our bodies. Music can weakens all the muscles in the body.

Rock music affects the body the way it does because rather than have a waltz-like beat pattern, which affects the heartbeat and the rhythm of one's body rock music employs a weak-weak-strong sequence known in poetry as the anapestic beat. Rap music is basically rock music. It has the same anapestic beat. It can't possibly glorify God.

Research has shown that a daily dose of classical music allows the neurons to process information more efficiently.

Example: Vivaldi. This type of music played softly is calming and a lot more gets done before u get tired.

3) It can effect you spiritually – Again

1Samuel 16:23 And it came to pass, when the [evil] spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

Music was used to help the Israelites remember their covenant while living among the other people bent on idolatry. The song along with the Law was to

haunt them when they turned their backs on God every time.

Deuteronomy 31:19 Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel.

‘song’ – the song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32).

Deuteronomy 31:20 For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swear unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.

*Deuteronomy 31:21 And it shall come to pass, when many evils and troubles are befallen them, that **this song shall testify against them as a witness**; for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their seed: for I know their imagination which they go about, even now, before I have brought them into the land which I swear.*

Deuteronomy 31:22 Moses therefore wrote this song the same day, and taught it the children of Israel.

'song' - will testify against them

So God knows that music will be in you no matter what. The flesh wants to hear it. It stays in your head.

Music has 3 primary parts: - These are the basic building blocks of music:

1) melody: effects the spirit

A Christian should emphasize the spiritual things first.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

- The Kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom.

The spirit responds to the melody.

Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

'filled' - literally means to be controlled

Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

- This is the part of music which God wants us to be preeminent in our life in the music of the Christian - the melody, because the spirit responds to the melody more than it responds to any of the other things.

'melody' - Greek: 'psallo' - singing, psalming or putting music to poetry - David did this with the Psalms.

2) harmony: effects the mind - the 'intellectual' part of music - You get moods from harmony - like the chords in a guitar - different parts playing one sound The harmony can be relaxing or tense.

The intellectual, emotional things in life should be emphasized second -

2Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

You're supposed to bring your mind down under control to the point that you have a 'shelter' around you.

We have to bring our minds into the captivity of the obedience of Christ, keeping out those bad thoughts and casting down those imaginations that exalt themselves against God.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

If we could get to the point where we don't sin with the mouth (James) and the meditations of the heart (the things you think about) are acceptable to the Lord, everything else would line up.

3) Rhythm - Greek – 'rheo' - to flow, to pulse: effects the body - what makes music move. As the body should be the third and least thing emphasized, the rhythm in music should be last and should be strictly controlled as you should control your body in everything you do.

We can make an analogy of the body with rhythm. The body needs a pulse and music needs rhythm - or they're both dead.

Rhythm doesn't have to be drums. Any instrument can play a rhythm. Your body will respond to rhythm even if you don't realize it.

Rhythm is the physical part of music. The sexuality of music is referred to in terms of its rhythm

The rhythm is the pulse of the music. It makes dancers very sensual. Too much erratic pulse (you have a rhythm in your body) and your body will be sick. If you have too much rhythm in your music the music will be sick. If you don't notice it in your body then it is under control.

A 'riff' is a melodic or rhythmic pattern or phrase repeated over and over. The goal is to produce a sensual sound.

If you're out of balance in melody, harmony and rhythm then your spirit, mind and body will be out of balance.

Because we're all flesh and our preferences get blurred and interfere with our comprehension.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

1Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring [it] into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

The body must be in proper relation with the mind and spirit else rhythm needs to be in the proper balance with harmony and melody.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

- makes God's direction very clear for the Christian. Then He will direct your path.

**** Obviously: Rock music is incompatible w the theme of getting the Gospel out.**

**** Classical music enforces the message of the Gospel more clearly.**

The ear and listening

The Word of God places a lot of emphasis on the ear.

The ear is the pathway to the heart. Thru the ear you get instruction, correction and encouragement.

Matthew 13:16 But blessed [are] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let [them] slip.

Proverbs 15:31 The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

Proverbs 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

- few verse on hearing in the Bible

Our ears respond to 19,985 individually perceptible sounds and frequencies.

Our eyes respond to 375 individually perceptible wavelengths of light.

-- We'll see more when we get to heaven though!

So our ears are over 50X more sensitive than the eyes. So what you're hearing is a whole lot more important than what you're seeing.

Hearing is the primary vehicle through which faith is understood and subsequently increased -

Romans 10:17 So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

--> the foundation of faith is the Word of God

It's believing what God said. The obedience that sends you to heaven is believing Christ died and paid for your sins.

Building our faith in God includes music.

- Who is your ear given to? You have to learn to listen to God - by getting into His Word.

Isaiah 51:7 Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart [is] my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

- What do you give your ears attention to? Is it fleshly music?

Romans 10:17 So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

How can music increase the spiritual part of humans -

*Isaiah 51:3 For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and **the voice of melody.***

'the voice of melody' - speaks to the part that should be predominate in your life - to the spiritual part of the human.

The voice of melody will be part of the Kingdom blessing – namely music.

And as we said, building our faith in God includes music. But today the melody (spiritual part) and the harmony (the intellectual part) are almost smothered out by the rhythm.

“Rock and Roll became a focal point for rebellion. Heavy metal is the spirit of rebellion. The fans imitate the dress of their idols.” – Newsweek

Music in the Church

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

The practical function and purpose of music in the church is to set that spirit. For music to be effective it's got to reflect the truth to set that spirit. The pastor teaches truth so the music should reflect that or there's no oneness that Christians should feel within the church.

Our worship service is to bring glory and honor to God, and not to entertain ourselves.

Yet some churches have all kinds of chaos during church service and have adopted heathen music and other carnal pleasures and have boldly brought them into the churches.

If worshipers are distracted by loud and noisy music very elaborately, then the musician is taking the focus of God's people off of Him and onto himself. We need to make a joyful noise unto the Lord with emphasis on the spiritual, not the carnal excitement and entertainment.

All the music you've listened to influences the doctrine, emotion, opinion - your entire thinking, your ideology (belief system) in life.

David and his musicians prophesied with musical instruments. This addressed the religious, moral and social, government issues that encompass ideology.

*1Chronicles 25:1 Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, **who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals:** and the number of the workmen according to their service was:*

*1Chronicles 25:2 Of the sons of Asaph; Zaccur, and Joseph, and Nethaniah, and Asarelah, the sons of Asaph under the hands of Asaph, **which prophesied according to the order of the king.***

1Chronicles 25:3 Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the LORD.

*1Samuel 10:5 After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where [is] the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, **that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:***

Amazingly, defenders of rock music claim that this music has great ideological impact because the message is put across in string symbols carried by the energy of the music itself. These are worldly people listening to worldly music.

Worldly music has a close identification with the bars, nightclubs - the music is what makes it

comfortable in those places. This music doesn't fit the scene in a church environment. It's meant to entertain Man and the needs of the flesh - rock, jazz, blues, disco.

Worldly music can be identified by its sound. The mind forms images of every sound it hears - either consciensely or unconsciency. - ex: railroad crossing bells. Music also produces certian images in your head. A female secular rock vocalist has the world's sound in her voice. The world sees it as a sexy sound. Its not a ministry, but flesh-pleasing entertainment.

**Sacred music – It must reflect God.
God's children ought to make melody. That melody, because it is a result of the Holy Spirit's**

indwelling, ought to reflect the character of God. It must imitate the truth of the gospel not the world's philosophy of relativism.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Sacred music must reflect absolute truth in its form. In a sense the music becomes the gospel in contrast to contemporary music, which promotes disorder and chaos rather than order and harmony. Thus, it credits the creation and denies the Creator.

Now let's talk about –

Christ honoring music

The Scriptural formula that God used for Christ honoring powerful sacred music -

2Chronicles 5:12 Also the Levites [which were] the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, [being] arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)

- for the dedication of Solomon's temple They were shouting and praising God because they were all sanctified and set apart. All the priests are Levites - you had to be a Levite to be a priest, but not all Levites are priests. Some Levites were singers, porters, some not ev in the priesthood at all. So if you were a priest you were a Levite, but you weren't necessarily a priest if you WERE a Levite.

**** The 1st element of Christ honoring music is unity. Music can unify through singing together.**

*2Chronicles 5:13 It came even to pass, as **the trumpeters and singers [were] as one**, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up [their] voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, [saying], For [he is] good; for his mercy [endureth] for ever: that [then] the house was filled with a cloud, [even] the house of the LORD;*

- more instruments

1Chronicles 23:5 Moreover four thousand [were] porters; and four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made, [said David], to praise [therewith].

- This verse even talks about having a 4,000-piece orchestra.

Flavius Josephus (a secular Jewish historian) talks about having 200,000 robed singers at the dedication of the temple. They were appointed to sing praises to God. It wasn't necessarily loud. Volume doesn't increase mathematically or in proportion to the numbers that you have in the group.

- 10 trumpets don't make 10X the sound that 1 trumpet makes.

Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit -

1Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

We are to be good stewards of our eardrums too.

**** The 2nd element of Christ honoring music - praise and thankfulness:**

*2Chronicles 5:13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers [were] as one, to make one soun to be heard in **praising and thanking** the LORD; and when they lifted up [their] voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD,*

[saying], For [he is] good; for his mercy [endureth] for ever: that [then] the house was filled with a cloud, [even] the house of the LORD;

Music can be a marvelous way to praise and thank God.

**** The 3rd element of Christ honoring music is**

power:

*2Chronicles 5:13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers [were] as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up [their] voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, [saying], For [he is] good; for his mercy [endureth] for ever: that [then] the house was filled with a **cloud**, [even] the house of the LORD;*

2Chronicles 5:14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

- the result of a sacred song that is giving praise and honoring God Clouds are a sign off God's presence and power.

The Israelites were led through the wilderness by a cloud.

Instruments that honor God

Psalm 150 is an excellent study of the major instruments used to praise the Lord.

Psalms 150:1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Psalms 150:2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

In Bible times, there were three groups of instruments:

- **percussion instruments: examples are drums and cymbals.**
- **wind instruments: examples are horns and pipes.**
- **string instruments: examples are harps and guitars.**

Psalms 150:3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

a)
The 'trumpet' was originally a ram's or cow's horn, perhaps in later times a metal instrument of the same shape, was mainly employed for secular purposes, while the instrument generally used in religious ceremonies was the straight metal trumpet. It was ordinarily the work of the priests to blow the trumpet

(1 Chronicles 15:24, Nehemiah 12:35, 41).

b)
Levites are often described as playing psalteries and
/ A psaltery is a stringed musical instrument of the harp family */*
harps and cymbals (1 Chronicles 15:16, Nehemiah
12:27).

Tambourines were beaten by women as they danced
(Psalm 68:25). Since these instruments are nowhere
else connected with religious ceremony, the call to
praise is addressed to priests, Levites, and people
who could play these instruments were to be enlisted
in the services.

Psalms 150:4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

These may include string and wind instruments generally, such as "harp and organ" (Genesis 4:21).

Psalms 150:5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Two kinds of cymbals are obviously meant. ‘sounding cymbals’ are the clear sounding cymbals - the clanging cymbals. The ‘cymbals of hearing’ may have been a smaller kind, producing a sharp, clear sound, possibly castanets, while the sounding cymbals may have been a larger kind, producing a clanging, booming sound.

Psalms 150:6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

- Not only priests and Levites only but all Israel, →
- Not only Israel but all mankind,
- Not only all mankind, but every living thing, must join in the chorus of praise.

The Universe is God's Temple, and **all** its inhabitants should be His worshippers.

Amen.

Conclusions

Music that honors God comes from a heart that desires to honor God. This is a heart that desires to convey well-deserved praise to a Sovereign God.

It's not about how well you sing or if you play an instrument. It's about expressing your love and praise to God in the music you sing or play or hear.

The book of Amos says -

Amos 5:23 Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

We must focus on the **melody** of music – the spiritual part.

A Christian should emphasize the spiritual things first.

This is the part of music which God wants us to be preeminent in our life in the music of the Christian - the melody, because the spirit responds to the melody more than it responds to any of the other things.

Let's listen only to music that praises God!