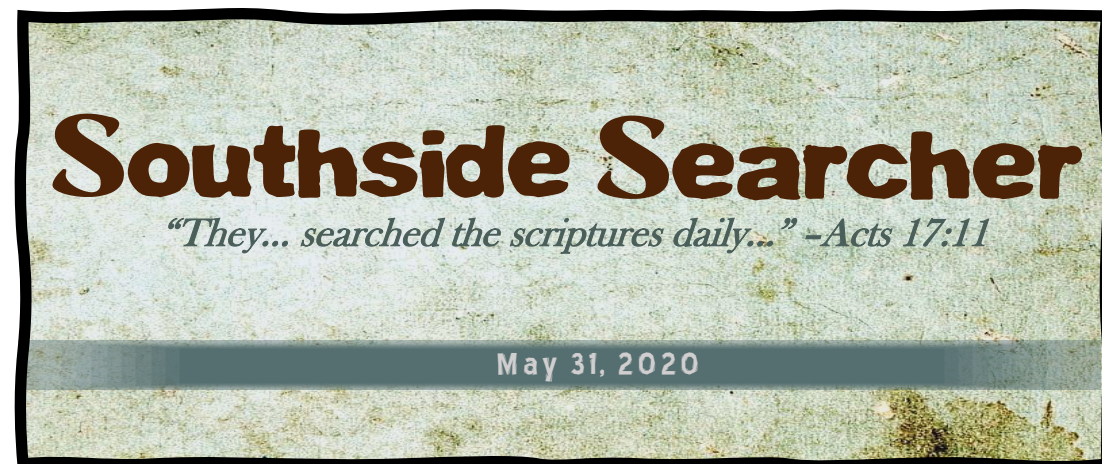


<p>DUTY LIST...</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford ➤ Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell Reading: Psalm 29:1-11 ➤ Song Leader.....Eli Todd ➤ Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson ➤ Lord's Table: Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....Eli Todd Serve..... ➤ Closing Prayer.....Michael Pickford <p>SUNDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scripture Reading... Reading: ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Lord's Supper..... <p>WEDNESDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Invitation..... 	<p style="text-align: center;">God's Plan of Salvation</p> <p>There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Hear the Gospel:</u> Romans 10:17 ➤ <u>Believe:</u> Mark 16:16; John 8:24 ➤ <u>Repent of Sin:</u> Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30 ➤ <u>Confess Faith:</u> Romans 10:9, 10 ➤ <u>Be Baptized:</u> Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21 ➤ <u>Remain Faithful:</u> Rev. 2:10 <p style="text-align: center;">Obey Today!</p>
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There's A Lesson In That

Two weeks ago, at the request of a friend, I wrote a poem about Beulah Land. Someone commented on that poem recently and after I finished reading the comment, I listened again to the song that I had copied to my post. This song was written over a hundred years ago. The words speak of an indescribably beautiful land, beyond this life. It is a beautiful song. This song that I copied was sung acapella by a group known as “The Table Singers”.

When the song ended, another version of the same song popped up. An African man named Khana Mhlongo was sitting at a piano and he started singing “Beulah Land.” This man has a beautiful voice and accent. I was drawn in again by the words of this beautiful song.

When he finished singing the chorus to the first verse, he started singing in an African language that I had never heard before. All of a sudden it hit me; I could now hear the piano. I was almost oblivious to it before because the words of the song were plucking on the strings of my heart.

I was cognizant that Mr. Mhlongo was playing it before, but those sounds weren't taking root; only the words that he was singing. Now that he was singing words that I could not understand, the piano became dominant. There is a lesson in this!

As these thoughts were running through my mind, I started singing along with Mr. Mhlongo. He was singing in his native language and I was singing in mine. I didn't

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Southside Searcher, Volume 16, Number 13

understand a word he was singing, but when I started singing in English, the piano became nothing more than a tinkling cymbal. Try this out yourself and you will see what I'm talking about.

Maybe this is why the New Testament is silent when it comes to using instrumental music in worship to God. The sounds of an instrument do nothing to teach me. They do nothing to comfort me. They do not encourage me, and they do not paint pictures on my heart of redemption, atonement, salvation, the resurrection, or what Beulah Land is going to be like. It's the words of the songs that do all of that, not the plucking of strings.

There are only nine verses in the New Testament that speak of Music. Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; I Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12 and James 5:13. Look at each of these verses and you will see that the only type of Music that is mentioned is singing.

I Corinthians 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."

Ephesians 5:19: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, SINGING AND MAKING MELODY IN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD;"

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."

You will never teach anyone about God by banging on a banjo, gyrating with a guitar, or plucking on a piano. However, people can be led to Christ by others who are singing praises to God; Acts 16:25-30. We encourage one another in song. We build one another up in song. We comfort one another in song. We give one another hope in song, etc. etc. It's the words that we are singing that do all these things.

There are no musical instruments mentioned in New Testament worship. They were not only allowed in Old Testament worship, sometimes they were commanded. That just tells me that God was and is aware that mechanical instruments exist. The New Testament is silent about them. If you want to add them into your worship, you are going to have to step outside the boundaries of the New Testament. That is something that I wouldn't want to be caught dead doing.

II John 1:9: "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son" (ASV).

-Patrick Andrews
ponchoandrews630@gmail.com

Join The Crowd

"You shall not follow a crowd to do evil..." -Exodus 23:2

All our lives we've heard the phrase, "Join the crowd." When we read God's word, the idea of "Joining the crowd" is often placed in a negative light. It's not always a desirable thing to do.

Long ago, God told His people Israel, "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil" (Exodus 23:2, NKJV). This speaks to influence and what we have termed, "Peer Pressure." It's not always easy to go against what everyone else is doing. What child hasn't said, "But everyone else is doing it." This very statement suggests that it is childish and immature to just do what everyone else is doing. Many in our society want to support homosexual marriages and they are putting the pressure on us to "Join the Crowd!" But God is clear that those who practice homosexuality will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9; Romans 1:26-27).

Jesus spoke of two ways, one leading to heaven and the other to hell. He (Tearfully I'm certain) said that the crowd would follow the way to destruction while the "Few" would keep to the narrow and difficult way to heaven (Matthew 7:13-14). It's easy to commit sin and be enchanted with the pleasure it offers. It's easy to refuse to go against the grain and just go along with what everyone else is doing. But it's also deadly to do so.

The only "Crowd" we should desire to be a part of is that crowd in heaven (Revelation 19:1, MKJV). We should want to be a part of that multitude that have washed their robes and endured faithfully to the Lord till death (Revelation 7:9-17; 2:10). Join That Crowd!

-Michael Pickford
Mpickford3@comcast.net