



# The Caller

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## Confidence Corner John F. Board

In this week's *Confidence Corner* I want to examine why we do not employ mechanical instruments of music in Christian worship. One of the best ways I

have heard to state the case against mechanical instruments of music in Christian worship was the statement Alan Highers used in his debate with Given O. Blakely. Brother Highers used the following thesis statement: "The use of mechanical instruments of music in Christian worship is without scriptural authority and therefore sinful." As memory serves me, that was very close to his statement if it was not his precise statement. Also as memory serves me I want to develop this as best I can from the approach Brother Highers employed in the debate.

By the phrase "the use of" the concept to be conveyed was "the playing of or the employment of a mechanical instrument of music." By the words "mechanical instruments of music" was the idea of any musical instruments (piano, organ, guitar, drums, harp, etc.). The phrase "in Christian worship" referred to worship under the Christian age guided by the Christian Scripture (i.e. New Testament). The word "is" was also very important. "Is" is a present tense verb conveying the concept of "at the present time" or the time in which we are currently living. The phrase, "without scriptural authority" indicates that something is without command, example, or implication for the inclusion of it in Christian worship. And the phrase "and therefore sinful" indicates that the actions spoken of (the use of mechanical instruments of music in Christian worship without scriptural authority) would be a transgression of the law and as such sinful (I John 3:4).

Brother Highers masterfully argued his case from Scripture. He pointed out that in order for something to have God's approval it would have to be of faith. Since our practice must be of faith to have the approval of God (2 Cor. 5:7) and faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17), the New Testament would have to in some way authorize the use of or playing of mechanical instruments of music in Christian worship for them to thus have the approval of God. In other words, God would have had to speak in some way (either directly or through His written Word) to indicate that He desired men to use mechanical instrumental music in worship to Him. But God has nowhere either by explicit command, example, or implication "spoken" to authorize such a practice. Without such authorization if we proceed to use mechanical instruments in our worship to God we go beyond the authority of Christ (Matt. 28:18; Col. 3:17) and we sin by going beyond what God allows.

Sometimes people fail to stop and think about whether a practice has the approval of God. Like those of old who changed the worship God desired (Cain, Nadab and Abihu, Jeroboam) they will meet with God's disapproval of their unauthorized action. May we always seek a "thus says the Lord" for all that we do in our worship to God, thus avoiding the unapproved practice of "will" worship.

*jfb*

## **Sunday's Sermons:**

**A.M. — *The Second Coming*  
*Matthew 25:1-13***

**P.M. — *Lessons from Hebrew Lads*  
*Psalms 137:1-6***

## How Honest Are You?

The following (*section in italics*) was a portion of an article written by Jessica Saggio in *Florida Today* that appeared on the *USA Today* website (see original article at: <https://www.usatoday.com/news/>):

*When Robby Robinson discovered a bank bag full of money sitting in the middle of busy Hopkins Avenue in Titusville, he didn't do anything newsworthy. He didn't pocket the cash. He didn't do anything illegal with it, and he certainly wasn't arrested. Best of all, he didn't ignore it.*

*Robinson decided in that very moment he was going to do the right thing. He picked it up, discovered it was full of cash and still had a bank receipt in it. So he drove his car to TD Bank, as labeled on the receipt, turned it in and explained the situation.*

*"I said, 'Hey I found this bank bag. It belongs to somebody and there's a receipt in there,'" said Robinson, who owns a local termite and pest control business. The bank employee "was elated somebody would do this." Then he took to social media, where he posted a photo of the bag on a popular Titusville Facebook group, the bank attendant's name to whom he had given the cash and wished everyone a "Happy Valentine's Day."*

*And, appropriately enough, the love began to pour in.*

*"Amazing."*

*"This is the best gift anyone could give today."*

*"Glad to know there are still honest people out there."*

What is honesty and why is it so important? What's wrong with a little white lie? Even little white lies to protect someone's feelings can compromise your faith and find you in a dilemma. Remember your example can lead others to Christ or turn them away from Christ. Truth told that even sometimes hurts someone's feelings will often be respected in time.

Honesty is a direct reflection of your inner character. Your actions are a reflection on your faith, and reflecting the truth in your actions is a part of being a follower of Christ. Honesty and integrity play a big role in how you will succeed in life.

Sometimes when you are honest, others are not and you end up losing out on something you had long hoped to obtain. In the end, what you sought was temporary; choosing to be honest, even when others are not, is noticed by God and even by others who admire from afar!

In the example above, Robby Robinson proved himself to be a person of integrity! Not only did he do the "honest" thing, he also practiced what we often call the Golden Rule "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

*John F. Board  
Elizabethtown, KY*