

with a beat, the singing is an unmelodic chant, the lyrics often range from the perverse to the mercifully unintelligible. . . . In keeping with the progress of liberalism, popular entertainment generally — and the worst of it in particular — celebrates the unconstrained self, and savages those who would constrain (pp. 124, 125).

Does the music we listen to bring us closer to God? Or does it take us further away from Him? “He who is not with Me is against Me” (Matthew 12:30).

“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:7–8).

### **Sick & Those Seeking Prayers**

Carrell Arrington \* Bryan Bailey, Sr. \* Linda Bailey  
Dorothy Brasiel \* Jo Byrnes \* Joyce Coones  
Sleatha Gore \* Essielene Henderson \* Ethel Jones  
Faye Kilpatrick \* Randy McElroy \* Gary Ogden

### **Group 2**

Meeting tonight after services at the home of  
Ronnie & Bonnie Lord.

### **Upcoming Gospel Meeting**

January 25–30 | Bethel congregation with John Zellner.  
Sunday through Friday, 7:30PM.

### **This Week's Birthdays**

Betty Cannon (*today*) \* Everett Jones (*Monday*)  
Lacy Bender (*Friday*)

Chiefland Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in *beautiful* Chiefland, Florida  
PO Box 2539 \* Chiefland FL 32644 \* (352) 493-1242

# THINGS ABOVE

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth”

—[ Colossians 3:1–2 ]—

January 18, 2009  Vol. 4, No. 44

[www.ChieflandChurchofChrist.com](http://www.ChieflandChurchofChrist.com)

## *The Influence of Music in Our Daily Lives as Christians*

*by Jamey Hinds*

And He was saying to them, “Take care what you listen to”  
—[ MARK 4:24 ]—

At the very least, the title of this article is intriguing. But I don't want us to think that the only point ever to be made about music and the disciple of Christ is that it is done within the context of a worship service, and that it is to be *a cappella* — i.e., without accompanying instruments.

Unequivocally, I affirm that when Christians gather together to worship God, we must do so as His word reveals it to be done: “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with

all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father” (Colossians 3:16–17). This involves our “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15) by *not* applying Old Testament allowances where the New Testament does not also apply these same allowances.

We do not worship on *the Sabbath day* because Christ “canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or *a Sabbath day* — things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ” (Colossians 2:14–17).

And so we don’t apply *tithing* from the Old Testament into the New Testament because the New Testament does not apply tithing to our reasonable service of worship (Romans 12:2). Neither should we apply *musical instruments* — with trumpet sound; with harp and lyre; with tambourine and dancing; with stringed instruments and flute; with loud cymbals; with resounding cymbals (cf. Psalm 150:3–5) — to our New Testament form of worship.

This all being said — and necessity compels me to say it because of so many who mishandle the word of truth and want musical instruments in worship not because God says so, but because they themselves say so — I want to make it clear that the music we listen to throughout the week affects us.

If we choose to listen to music that does not lift us up spiritually, then we’re harming ourselves.

Some will insist on *a cappella* music in congregational worship, but then hypocritically go away from it blaring their radios, CD players, or iPods with trash that celebrates divorce, adultery, and fornication!

I’m not saying that we should only listen to *a cappella* music throughout the week — although there’d be nothing but a benefit from doing so; of course, some might think us square if we did, and who wants to be thought of as square? I am, however, *insisting* that we be careful what we listen to.

Is God glorified when we know the words of songs that honor sexual immorality? Would Jesus sit next to us and sing those songs, too? We know He wouldn’t, so why do we? I’ll tell you why — because we want to. And that’s what needs to change: our wants, our desires.

“Do nothing from selfishness” (Philippians 2:3). “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever” (1 John 2:15–17).

In his excellently-written and challenging book *Slouching Towards Gomorrah* © 1996, Robert H. Bork wrote the following:

The obscenity of thought and word is staggering, but also notable is the deliberate rejection of any attempt to achieve artistic distinction or even mediocrity. The music is generally little more than noise