

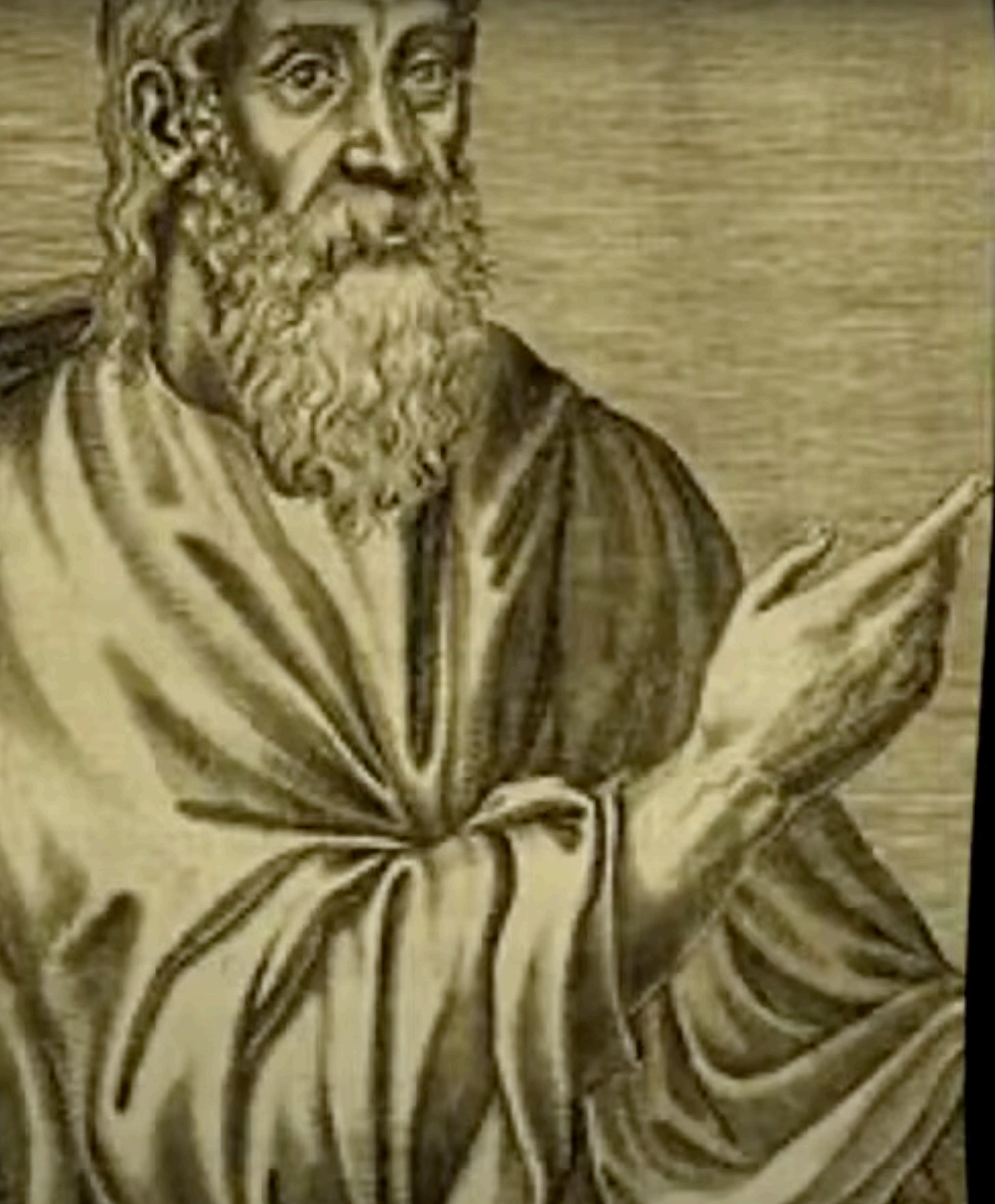
**Acts 17:11** “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.”

**Romans 14:12** “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”



# Instrumental Music

How can we be better Bible Students?



## Clement of Alexandria

*“If a man  
learns without  
preconceived ideas,  
he has ears to hear  
the truth.”*

## Psallo:

how it is translated  
in the LXX (O.T. Greek)

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- It can mean “sing”.  
**Jdg 5:3**
- It can mean “play”.  
**Psa 68:25**
- Sometimes its hard to  
tell. **Psa 33:3**

## Judges 5:3

“Hear, O kings! Give ear, O  
princes! I, even I, will sing  
to the Lord; I will **sing**  
praise to the Lord God of  
Israel.

# Translations

Two inherent challenges:

1. Word meanings change over time
2. The translated word doesn't always have an exact match

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# Sleep

**Hypnos:** simply means sleep (Acts 20:9, Romans 13:11)

**Koimaō:** to die (1 Corinthians 15:18)

**Katheudō:** to fall asleep and metaphorically is a reference to yield to sloth and sin, and be indifferent to one's salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:6)

# Psallo - Hebrew Words

**Nagan:** would refer to instrumental music, but in these cases there is reference to the instruments in the context (I Samuel 16:16-18, 23; 18: 10; 19:9)

**Zamar:** make music in praise of God (Psalms 71:22; 98:5; 144:9; 147:7; 149:3)

**Ado:** to sing (Psalms 13:6; 21:13; 27:6; 18:49; 30:4; 57:7; 59:16ff; 68:4; 68:32; 101:1; 104:33; 138:1; Judges 5:3; Romans 15:9)



# Psallo - In the NT

Thayer's, Vines, Strongs, Theological Dictionary of the NT, International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, and nearly every modern English Bible translation - All specify and/or translate the word to be sing

Through His  
silence, God  
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the New  
Testament

- **DO NOT** presume that we have authority for such in the N.T.  
*cp. Chron 29:25*
- **DO NOT** presume God will eternally condemn those who use them.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** Let us “speak where the Bible speaks and to be silent where it is silent.”

# Bible Authority

1. Direct Command
2. Approved Example
3. Unavoidable Conclusion

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# Bible Authority

Quote: "In the NT we don't have any divine revelation that says to do it or don't do it."

# Bible Authority - Straw Man



# Bible Authority

Quote: "If God is silent, we can not step in to be God. The first time you are presumptuous on either conclusion. Then someone at some point will challenge you, to be consistent. Cause there's going to be many, many things that we can discuss where God has revealed himself that we don't necessarily practice."

# Bible Authority

## Foot washing:

- God has never commanded us to wash other people feet
- This was never an approved example that we must follow in an assembly
- This idea is never presented as an unavoidable conclusion

(John 13)



# Bible Authority

Was the Bible silent on instrumental music?

8 Verses in the NT connect the Christian to singing (Matthew 26:30, Acts 16:25, Romans 15:9, 1 Cor 14:15, Eph 5:19, Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 2:12, James 5:13)

# Bible Authority

Matthew 26:30 "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

Act 16:25 "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them."

Romans 15:9 "and that the Gentiles might glorify God for [His] mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name."

1 Corinthians 14:15 "What is [the conclusion] then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding."

Ephesians 5:19 "speaking to one another 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."

Hebrews 2:12 "saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

James 5:13 "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms."

# Bible Authority

Was the Bible silent on instrumental music?

Every modern English Bible version and supplemental concordance, bible dictionary, lexicon, etc. translates Psalms as singing in the NT

# Bible Authority

Was the Bible silent on instrumental music?

Antidotally: Nearly every single denominational leader was adamantly apposed to instrumental singing and it was not allowed in any denomination until well after the leader had passed

# Bible Authority

Was the Bible silent on instrumental music?

Most importantly: when God tells us what to do, the Bible doesn't have to tell us what not to do.

- Noah
- Nadab and Abihu
- Priest hood of Jesus

# Bible Authority

Quote: "...because I wasn't raised in the church I don't have the same conclusion that someone is going to lose their soul over it." ..."that doesn't mean there is authority for it."

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# Bible Authority

**Matthew 7:21-23** “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”





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