

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

Taking Chances

*Are you using the opportunities you have to serve God?
If not, you are “taking chances” with your spirit!*

We have all been encouraged not to take a chance on trying to beat a train across its tracks, because you are sure to lose. We have all been encouraged from a young age to look both ways before you cross a street, lest a moving vehicle should run you down. We are continually instructed by loved ones and family members to take no chances, so that we may be safe from harm.

What kind of chances are you taking? Are you among the many that are taking a chance on something far more valuable than human life? Are you taking a chance that you might be saved without obeying the commands

found in the Bible? The chances are against you! (Matthew 7:21).

Are you putting off being a Christian, taking a chance that nothing will happen to you before you decide to become one? For you well know, “that the day of the Lord cometh as a thief in the night.” (2Peter 3:10)

Are you a lukewarm Christian, taking a chance on “getting by” on God’s mercy because you have obeyed the fundamental principles of the Gospel? That is a big wager! (1Corinthians 10:12)

Don’t take foolish chances!!

by Greg King (Jamestown, Indiana)

In This Issue:

- **Taking Chances**
- **Faith in Hebrews 11**
- **What is Wrong with Playing Songs to God?**

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Lessons From People of Faith in Hebrews 11

Do you realize how controversial the subject of faith is? Some atheists misrepresent true faith as being “blind faith,” ignoring the evidence for God’s existence (Rom. 1:18-20). Some agnostics think faith is a man-made tradition, not knowing the evidence for the divine origin of Scripture (2 Pet. 1:19-21). Some people mistakenly teach that faith requires a modern miracle of the Holy Spirit in your heart, overlooking the persuasive power of His word (1 Pet. 1:23).

If you want to know about true faith, read Hebrews 11. Here we see that faith is the result of learning what God has said and done (v1-3; Rom. 10:17). By this faith, Abel learned how to please God when he worshiped (v4; we hope you learned this from our recent articles about “playing songs to God”). By this faith, Noah knew that God would punish the disobedient, so he built an ark (v7). If you have seen the recent fictional “Noah” movie, we hope you’ll read the real events in Genesis 6-9 and the lesson Peter taught about baptism based on Noah’s life (1 Pet. 3:20-21).

For more study of Hebrews 11, join us Wednesdays at 7PM. We recently began studying this chapter. You can view the class handouts are on our website (*Free Class Lessons*).

What is Wrong with Playing Songs to God?

Does God pay attention to what kind of music we offer Him?

The true God only accepts true worship. Man has offered worship by drinking blood and honoring animals, but God has never accepted it. God showed He expected true worship when he rejected Cain's sacrifice, killed two priests who offered what He had not commanded, and sent Jesus who taught that true worship was going to be different than the worship of Moses' law (Gen. 4:5; Lev. 10:1-2; Jn. 4:21). If He rejected their worship, would He ever reject ours?

We can know God accepts worship when we are *singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord* (Eph. 5:19; also read Col. 3:16 and Jam. 5:13). God taught Christians to sing songs, but they never learned to play songs to Him on musical instruments. If that sounds strange to you, then think of the Lord's Supper. God taught Christians to eat the bread in memory of Jesus' death (1 Cor. 11:24). Would you add butter to this bread or lamb (since Jesus is the *lamb of God*)? If you would not add a different kind of food, why would you add a different kind of music? Just as we might ask the ancient Mayans "Why did you worship by sacrificing children?". We should ask ourselves why we worship the way we do. To you who worship God by playing songs on organs or guitars, we ask, "Why do you do that?"

Do you assume that since songs were played to God in the past, it is okay today? Psalms 149:3 says to *sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp*, and verses 6-9 say that while praise is in your mouth a *two-edged sword* should be in your hand *to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the people; to bind their kings with chains*. Does your church do this? The psalmist wrote while under the law of Moses (see Gal. 3:23-29). Do you follow that law today?

Other people believe that since playing songs to God is not forbidden by name in the New Testament it must be okay. Is mixing apple juice with the fruit of the vine in memory of Jesus' blood or burning incense to God acceptable worship today? Is polygamy or bestiality wrong? Do you still believe God only condemns things He specifically names? What are your reasons for playing songs to God? We are interested in hearing them. Contact us.

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.

(Colossians 3:16)

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: **7:00 PM**

Questions from this issue's articles:

1. What did Jesus say in Matthew 7:21-23, to people who called Him "Lord"?
2. In order to avoid having a "blind faith," what evidence must we examine?
3. Does God accept any worship that is offered to Him?
4. Under Moses' law, what did God teach men to do in Psalm 149?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501 OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

* All past and current issues of *Truth and Reason* are available at our website—tell a friend!