

# THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

September 21, 2014

**"BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT"**

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST, JACKSON, TENNESSEE

## Why must you use instruments in worship?

Recently, a congregation in the city where I preach decided to start using instruments in their worship assembly. Apparently, even the community realizes that among churches of Christ, this is a big deal because the local news and newspaper have done stories on it. Obviously, I love my brothers and sisters in congregations that make this decision, but the question I have is, "Why must you use instruments to worship?" You see, the burden of proof is not on me to prove why I *don't* believe in using instruments in worship; the burden of proof is on them to prove why they feel it is necessary to use instruments.

**(The last of 3 parts)**

### 3. Is it because you want to allow people to showcase their talents?

To me, the most disturbing part of this news story was the very last line, "The people that perform the music are all from the church and now they are able to showcase their talents to the rest of their church community." I have been saying for years that when worship becomes about showcasing our talents, it ceases to be worship.

In our culture, we want the spotlight on us, we take selfies all the time, and we brag about every little accomplishment on social media. It's no wonder that people are begging to showcase their talents "to the rest of their church community." But worship is not a talent show. It is supposed to be a time of profound humility, where we all come before God on our knees to *showcase* our brokenness and praise Him for healing us. It's not supposed to be a time where we say, "Look at what I can do," but, "Look at what He has done." And why is it that only the musicians can use this argument for why they should be able to perform in worship? Shouldn't the trash man and the barber get the same opportunity to showcase their talents? Surely not, because worship isn't a talent show.

Congregational singing accomplishes this goal. When we all sing together – without choir, praise team, or band – we are all on level ground. But when we turn worship into an entertaining performance, we have missed the entire concept of what worship is supposed to be about.

Does this mean people aren't supposed to use their talents for God? Of course not! We can still use our talents for God's glory by using them in everyday ways. In the first century, the slave was told to use his position and his labor for God's glory (Ephesians 6:1-8). The Christian trash collector uses his talents to glorify God. The Christian barber uses his talents to glorify God. The Christian doctors, lawyers, and sales clerks use their talents to glorify God. They do this by doing their common and everyday jobs in extraordinary ways.

You do not have to bring your talents into the worship assembly to use your talents for God. As Paul wrote, "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

**Conclusion:** As I've said many times before, the reason I don't believe in using mechanical instruments in worship is very simple: God specifically told us to make music with our hearts and our lips (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19). That's it. His specificity means other ways of making music are simply not an option. And we don't *need* anything else. The tools He has given us are more than sufficient to do what He wants us to do in worship.

Instruments continue to divide Christians. They continue to turn worship into a talent show. They continue to distract from the words that are being sung. The bottom line is this: Why do you need an instrument to worship God? You don't. You don't need one at all.

We are so grateful that you have made the decision to join our family, today, as we worship our Almighty God! If you have any questions or inquiries, please feel free to ask any of our members and we would be more happy to answer as best we can! Please accept our invitation to join us, again, when you have the opportunity.

**- Wes Adams, [radicallychristian.com](http://radicallychristian.com)**



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday AM Notes 9-21-2014

What about the  
thief on the cross?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 Questions to Ask in Response

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*Speaker:*

NICK ANGEL

Sunday PM Notes 9-21-2014

## BIBLE QUESTION & ANSWER

1. What would the world be like if Adam and Even had never sinned in the Garden?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Were there dinosaurs on the ark?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Does God hear the prayers of non-Christians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Can a Christian do anything that will cause God to not hear his/her prayers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What is Lilith from Isaiah 34:14?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Is there a contradiction between the accounts of Jesus' ascension in Luke 24 and Acts 1?

## Our Shepherds

**David Barker** (731) 695-7949  
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## Our Deacons

**Jeff Cisco** (731) 217-2186  
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## Our Evangelist

**Nick Angel** (423) 310-8272  
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### Times of Worship & Bible Study

**Sunday:**

**9:30 AM Bible Study**

**10:30 PM Worship Service:** You can expect heart felt singing, reverent prayer, preaching from the Word of God, a focused and reverent observance of the Lord's Supper, and an opportunity for the saints of Pleasant Plains to give back to the Lord.

**5:00 PM Worship Service**

**Wednesday:**

**7:00 PM Bible Study**

### Weekly Attendance

**Last Sunday AM Worship.....100**  
**Last Sunday PM Worship.....80**  
**Last Wednesday Bible Study.....77**

## In Our Prayers

**-Taylor Maurer and Baby Maurer**  
**-Nancy Phillips and Baby Phillips**  
**-Caroline and Mason Sils...**  
continued recover and good health from Mason's delivery.  
**-Robin Hill.....** battling cancer.  
**-Jamie Neal and family (friend of Nancy Phillips)....**Battling Melanoma.  
**-Andrew Westphal (Christian in Bowling Green)...** Battling brain tumor, but received good news at last checkup. Tumor is shrinking.  
**-Janice Williams (Becky Waddell's sister)...**Battling cancer.  
**-Ashley Pickens (Brent Holt's cousin)...** Battling Cancer.  
**-Louise Stitt (Amy Gailey's mother)...** Battling leukemia.  
**-Barbara Leonard...**Battling cancer and COPD.  
**-Alice Watson (Cathy Raines' Mother)...**waiting on results from a biopsy. Please pray that the results will be clear of cancer!  
**-Pray for the work of this church.** The fields are white and we need to be hard at work to spread the Gospel to as many lost souls as possible.  
**-Men and women making the sacrifice to protect the freedoms of this country.**

If you have any updates to the prayer list, please see Nick (in person, phone call, text, or email) so we can keep the bulletin up to date.

## Pleasant Plains News

### Upcoming Bible Studies & Events

**Men's Bible Class** - First Saturday morning at 7:30AM at Panera Bread. If you have any questions please see Nick!

**Teen Devo** - TONIGHT! Teen Devo will be this evening directly following the evening service. Location will be Jeff Cisco's home. He asked that everyone please bring a drink and the Ciscos will provide the food.

**Couples Class** - October's location and date is yet to be determined.

**Ladies Class** - Tuesday October 7th at 10:00AM here at the building. See Denise Steinly or Amanda Cisco for more details.

### **Fall Meeting - DATE CHANGE!**

\*October 26-29\* with Jordan Shouse of the North Hixon church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Please be making your plans to attend!

### Area Gospel Meetings

● **Elliot St. Church of Christ in Humboldt, TN.** L.A. Stauffer will be preaching from the Word of God. Service times will be Monday, September 22nd-Friday, September 26th at 7:00PM nightly.

### Miscellaneous

● **Medina Kinds Konnection** - Saturday September 27th from 5:00PM-9:00PM at the home of Lance & Jenny Epperson. All kids 5th grade and up are invited for this time to spend together with other kids their age and study from God's Word. See Nick if you are interested in going.