

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC & NEW TESTAMENT WORSHIP

This fine book by the late James D. Bales was first published in 1973 and is now enjoying its third printing. The book consists of Bales' debate notes on the subject, gathered over his long career as a preacher and teacher of God's Word. The first three chapters are devoted to a study of acceptable worship. The remainder of the book is a collection of the many and varied arguments made in defense of instrumental music in worship. To each argument, the author provides us with one or more concise, effective rebuttals. He provides us with an extensive bibliography of books and materials relating to the subject. Also there are complete scripture and subject indices to expedite the finding of needed information.

Few men who have served among us, stood in the ranks with James Bales. He not only held his doctorate, he was a man whose entire life was devoted to the study and proclamation of the Word of God. Over the years he accumulated a vast personal library and read more broadly than most students dream of. He developed an effective system of collecting and filing information that enabled him to produce the hundred or so books that bear his name. His knowledge was legendary. No one ever read a book from his pen without profit.

This book is a veritable encyclopedia on the subject of instrumental music and worship. In addition to his logical and scriptural responses to the assertions of those who want to use instruments, he provides us with valuable biographical and historical information relating to this subject. These references range from the earliest days of Christianity, through the great apostasy, the Protestant and Reformation and the early years of our movement to restore the ancient faith and practice of the church.

Bro. Bales oft tested his sword against representatives of the Christian Churches who advocated instrumental music. I doubt he could have imagined that thirty years later, some of his own brethren in the church of Christ, and in her schools of higher learning, would be using the same feeble arguments to defend the introduction of instruments into the worship of the church.

This book should be read by every man who preaches God's word. It should be on the shelves of every congregation's library. Bro. Eddie Cloer has done the church a great favor by reprinting this valuable book. Copies may be ordered from **Truth for Today World Mission School, 2209 S. Benton, Searcy, AR 72143.**
JHW