

Our Sacrifice and Gift to God

Hebrews 13: 8-9

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines.

An unexamined life is not worth living.
The unexamined church is not worth
attending!

Matthew 7:3-5

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Maybe this?



Or This?



Or perhaps this?



Genesis 4:3-5

In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.

Leviticus 10:1-3

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. **And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.** Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’”

The regulative principle of worship

- This simply means that God regulates how we worship Him and what is acceptable and pleasing in his sight.
- We are to worship God only as He has authorized without adding to or taking away from his instructions.
- As God tells us in Deuteronomy 12:32, “Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not **add** to it or **take from** it.”
- Deuteronomy 4:2 “You shall **not add** to the word that I command you, nor **take from** it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.”

Ephesians 5:18-20

... but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **giving thanks** always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:21, 26-32

- “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened...”
- verses 26-32: “For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; **27** and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. **28** And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. **29** They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, **30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31** foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. **32** Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”

Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Matthew 26:30

And having sung a hymn, they went forth to
the mount of the Olives.

Septuagint translation quoted by Jesus and apostles.

- We need to understand first of all that Jesus and his disciples used the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures known as the Septuagint.
- In their day, Greek was the language of the society in which they lived so they quoted from this translation constantly.

Compare Hebrews 10:5-6 with Psalm 40:6

- You see this especially with the writer of Hebrews. When he quotes Psalm 40:6 in Hebrews 10:5-6 he writes "Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, **but a body hast thou prepared me.**"
- Psalm 40:6 says, "Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; **mine ears hast thou opened...**"
- Psalm 40:6 in the Septuagint reads, "Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not; **but a body hast thou prepared me...**" which is precisely the quotation found in Hebrews.

Septuagint Psalms 4-6

Psalms

Psalm 4

For the End, a Song of David among *the* Psalms.

4:1 When I called upon *him*, the God of my righteousness heard me: thou hast made room for me in tribulation; pity me, and hearken to my prayer.

Psalm 5

For the end, a Psalm of David, concerning her that inherits.

5:1 Hearken to my words, O Lord, attend to my cry. ² Attend to the voice of my supplication, my King, and my God: for to thee, O Lord, will I pray. ³ In the morning thou shalt hear my

Psalm 6

For the End, a Psalm of David among the Hymns for the eighth.

6:1 O Lord, rebuke me not in thy wrath, neither chasten me in thine anger. ² Pity me, O Lord; for I am weak: heal me, O Lord; for my bones are vexed. ³ My soul also is grievously vexed: but thou, O Lord, how long? ⁴ Return, O Lord, deliver my soul: save me for thy mercy's sake. ⁵ For

Septuagint Psalms, Hymns, and spiritual Songs

- The Septuagint labels the following as **Hymns**: 6, 54-55, 61, 67, and 76.
- The **Spiritual Songs** of the Septuagint are 4, 18, 30, 39, 45, 48, 65-68, 75-76, 83, 87-88, 91-93, 95-96, 108, 120-134.
- The **Psalms** are 3-9, 11-15, 19-25, 29-31, 38-41, 43-44, 46-51, 62-68, 73, 75-77, 79-85, 87-88, 92, 94, 98-101, 108-110, 139-141, 143.
- There is also the **Contemplation** or Wisdom Parable type of music in the Psalms, which are 32, 42, 44-45, 52-55, 74, 78, 88-89, 142.

Hebrews 2:11-12

“For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He [Jesus] is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying:

**“I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise
to You.”**

- Here the writer of Hebrews is quoting from Psalm 22:22 and attributing these words to Jesus! And what is Jesus doing here? He is singing praise to God from Psalm 22!

1 Timothy 3:15

- ...but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the **church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**
- The Biblical creeds and confessions have been given to us by the divine command of God from the church to confess the truth of the Bible.

Council of Laodicea (364 A.D.)

No Psalms composed by private individuals nor any uncanonical books may be read in the church, but only the Canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments. (Canon 59)

**You can't have sola scriptura without
solas psalmus - Psalms alone.**

Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)

4th Ecumenical Council affirmed and adopted the canons of the Council of Laodicea.

Sola scriptura and solas psalmus received the approval and adoption of the authority of the 4th Ecumenical Council.

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 21 Paragraph 1

“But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by Himself, and so limited by His own revealed will, that He may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other **way not prescribed in the holy Scripture.**”

One of the scripture proofs cited for regulating our worship to only what God has commanded is from Deuteronomy 12:32 which says “**Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.**”

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 21, Paragraph 5

WCF lists as an element of worship, “singing of psalms with grace in the heart”.

Again solus psalmus or Psalms alone are what God commands as true praise and worship of Him.

Westminster divines produced “The Directory For The Public Worship of God”

- “It is the duty of Christians to praise God publicly, by singing of **psalms together in the congregation, and also privately in the family.** In singing of psalms, the voice is to be tunably and gravely ordered; but the chief care must be to **sing with understanding, and with grace in the heart, making melody unto the Lord. That the whole congregation may join herein,** every one that can read is to have a psalm book; and all others, not disabled by age or otherwise, are to be exhorted to learn to read.”
- The Westminster Divines not only confessed that the book of Psalms Hymns and Spiritual Songs of the Bible be song in public and private worship but then directed a book of exclusively the 150 Psalms of the Bible be produced, and it was published in 1650.
- This means we must learn not only to read the words but the music as both are required to sing to God.

Psalm 119:108

Accept the freewill offerings of my mouth O
Lord.

Psalm 105:2

Sing to Him, sing Psalms to Him;
Talk of all His wondrous works!

Hebrews 13:15

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Not 1, not 2, but 3 councils of Christ's church over the span of 1300 years all interpret the scriptures as commanding Solus Psalmus or Psalms alone as the only worship which God accepts. 3-0. There are zero councils telling you that you can offer whatever you feel like to God. There are instead three Councils commanding Psalms alone as your offering of praise to God.