

I. The Regulative Principle of Worship.

- A.** What is Worship?
- B.** How is Worship to be ordered? (the first four commandments)
- C.** Reformation is ultimately about ordering the worship of God according to His Word.
- D.** The Regulative Principle of Worship
 - 1)** The Regulative Principle Defined (WCF 21.1)
 - a)** Contrasted with other unbiblical principles:
 - (i) Prohibition, or Normative Principle; (ii) Preference; (iii) Pragmatics
 - 2)** The Regulative Principle Defended
 - a)** From the Text (vv 20-21, 25-28, 31, 35; 1 Cor 14:40)
 - b)** From Elsewhere in Scripture (Dt 12:32; Acts 17:25; Jer 19:5; Mt 15:9)

II. The Singing of Psalms Exclusively in Worship.

- A.** Exclusive Psalmody Defined
- B.** Exclusive Psalmody Defended
 - 1)** From the Text (vv 27, 30)
 - 2)** Elsewhere in Scripture
 - a)** Briefly answering an objection: What about the command to sing a new song? (Jn 13:34; 2 Jn 5; Gen 3:15; Rom 4)?
 - b)** Proven from Description (Mk 14:26; Acts 16:25)
 - c)** Proven from Prescription (Jms 5:13; Col 3:16)
- C.** Application from the Text — Sing the Psalms!
 - 1)** For it commanded to all that we are to sing God's praise (Mt 21:16b)
 - 2)** Sing the Psalms with understanding (1 Cor 14:15b)
 - 3)** Sing with thanksgiving for the glory and grace of the Triune God as you sing from His Psalms (Col 3:16c)
 - 4)** We sing, not just as individuals, but as a congregation (Col 3:16b)
 - 5)** Sing the Psalms with regularity, particularly in daily family worship (Psa 118:15)

III. We Are to Sing Psalms with Our Voices, Not Instruments.

- A.** Exclusive A Cappella Singing Defined
- B.** Exclusive A Cappella Singing Defended
 - 1)** From the Text
 - a)** The instruments of the Old Covenant served a ceremonial purpose (v 27b).
 - i.** Instruments are used in the Old Testament for a variety of purposes (Gen 4:21-22, 31:27; Ex 15:20-21; Jdg 3:27. For examples of other sundry ceremonial uses, see 1 Chr 15:12-28; 2 Chr 5:11-14; Ezra 3:10-11)
 - b)** The kind of instruments were restricted (vv 25-26).
 - c)** The playing of instruments of the Old Covenant were restricted to the Levites and Priests only (vv 25-26; c.f. v 30b; Psa 135:3, 19-20)
 - d)** Old Covenant ceremonies have been fulfilled and rendered obsolete by the death of the Lord Christ Jesus (Heb 8:13; Eph 2:13-16)
 - e)** Our text anticipates in a way the reality of the New Covenant (v 28; Jn 19:30; Dan 9:27)
 - 2)** This truth is further confirmed in the New Testament (Heb 13:15; Eph 5:19)

IV. Uses (Applications) from the Text

- A.** We are to have humility in our worship of God (v 30b-31).
- B.** Consider the seriousness of our worshipping God.
 - 1)** In that worship is the priority of the Christian life.
 - a)** Man is a worshipping creature.
 - b)** God is more pleased with public than private and family worship (Psa 87:2)
 - 2)** God is holy (Hab 2:20).
- C.** Delight in the simplicity of biblical worship (Col 3:20-23)
- D.** We are to have a true sincerity in our worship (v 31; Jms 4:8)
- E.** Let us have a true joy in the worship of God (v 31, 36).