

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos



# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

- ✦ The Faith Once Delivered –
- ✦ The Historical Record –
- ✦ Some of The Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music –



# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos



**WIKIPEDIA**  
*Die freie Enzyklopädie*

Present-day Christian religious bodies known for conducting their worship services without musical accompaniment include some Presbyterian churches devoted to the regulative principle of worship, Old Regular Baptists, Primitive Baptists, Plymouth Brethren, most congregations among the churches of Christ, the Old German Baptist Brethren, the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church and the Amish. Many Mennonites also conduct some or all of their services without instruments.

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## The Faith Once Delivered



### **Acts 16:25 (NKJV)**

<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

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## The Faith Once Delivered



**Romans 15:9 (NKJV)**  
<sup>9</sup> and that the Gentiles  
might glorify God for His  
mercy, as it is written: "For  
this reason I will confess to  
You among the Gentiles,  
And sing to Your name."

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## The Faith Once Delivered



### **1 Cor. 14:15 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

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## The Faith Once Delivered



### **Ephesians 5:19 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another  
in psalms and hymns and  
spiritual songs, singing and  
making melody in your  
heart to the Lord,

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## The Faith Once Delivered



### **Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> 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.

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## The Faith Once Delivered



**Hebrews 2:12 (NKJV)**  
12 saying: "I will declare  
Your name to My  
brethren; In the midst of  
the assembly I will sing  
praise to You."

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## The Faith Once Delivered



### **Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> 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.

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## The Voice Of History

**FACT: No  
record of  
Instruments  
being used  
prior to 666  
A.D.—**

According to James William McKinnon, there is not one reference to instrumental music in the worship of the church in the “Fathers” from the second century through the beginning of the fifth (about 150 references in all).

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## The Voice Of History

**FACT: No  
record of  
Instruments  
being used  
prior to 666  
A.D.—**

- *Clement of Alexandria (150 AD)*
- *Justin Martyr (150 AD)*
- *Origen (200 AD)*
- *Methodius (250 AD)*
- *Eusebius (300 AD)*
- *Basil of Caesarea (330 AD)*
- *John Chrysostom (350 AD)*
- *Cyril of Jerusalem (350 AD)*
- *Athanasius (350 AD)*
- *Isadore of Pelusium (400 AD)*
- *Apostolic Constitutions (400 AD)*
- *Jerome (400 AD)*
- *Augustine (400 AD)*

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History



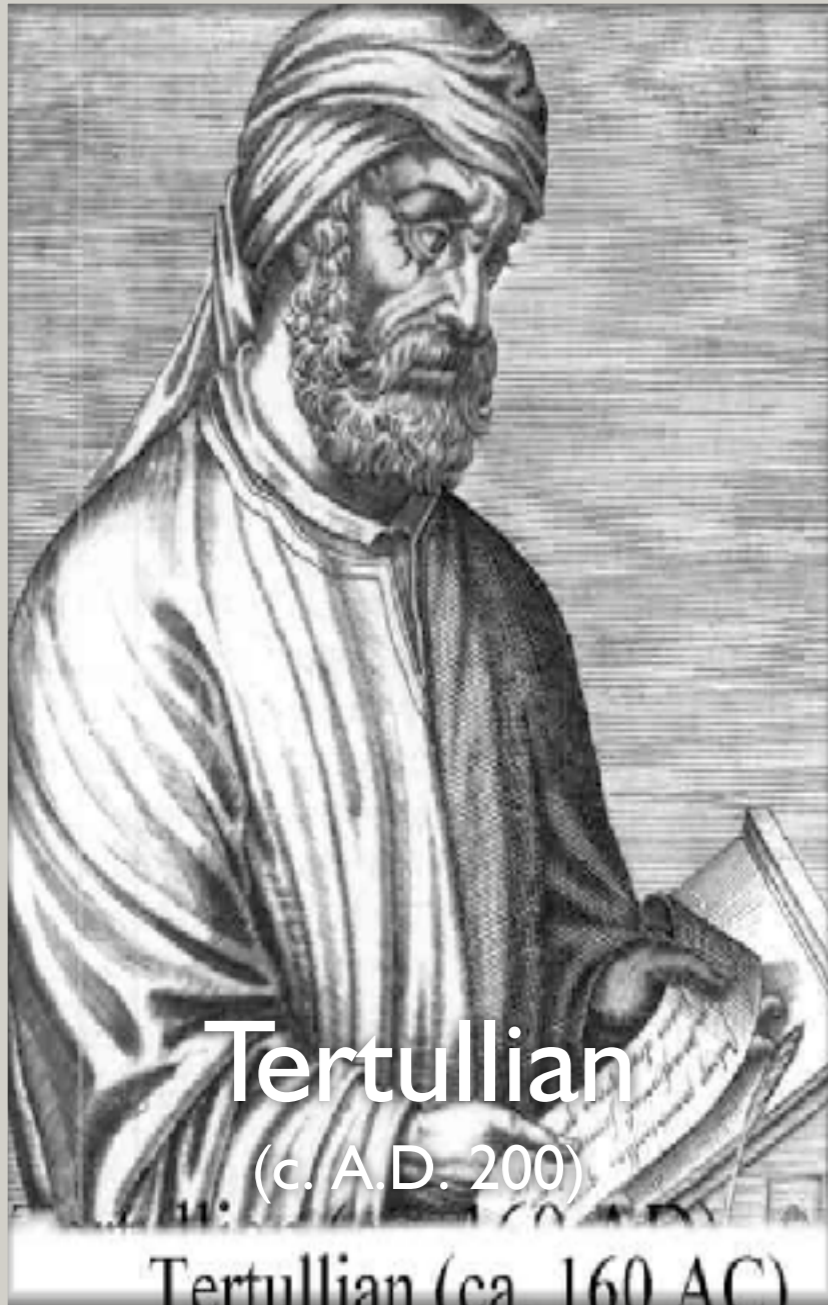
Justin Martyr (A.D. 139)

### **Justin Martyr (A.D. 139):**

"The use of [instrumental] music was not received in the Christian churches, as it was among the Jew, in their infant state, but only the use of plain song. . . . Simply singing is not agreeable to children [the aforementioned Jews], but singing with lifeless instruments and with dancing and clapping is. On this account the use of this kind of instruments and of others agreeable to children is removed from the songs of the churches, and there is left remaining simply singing."

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History

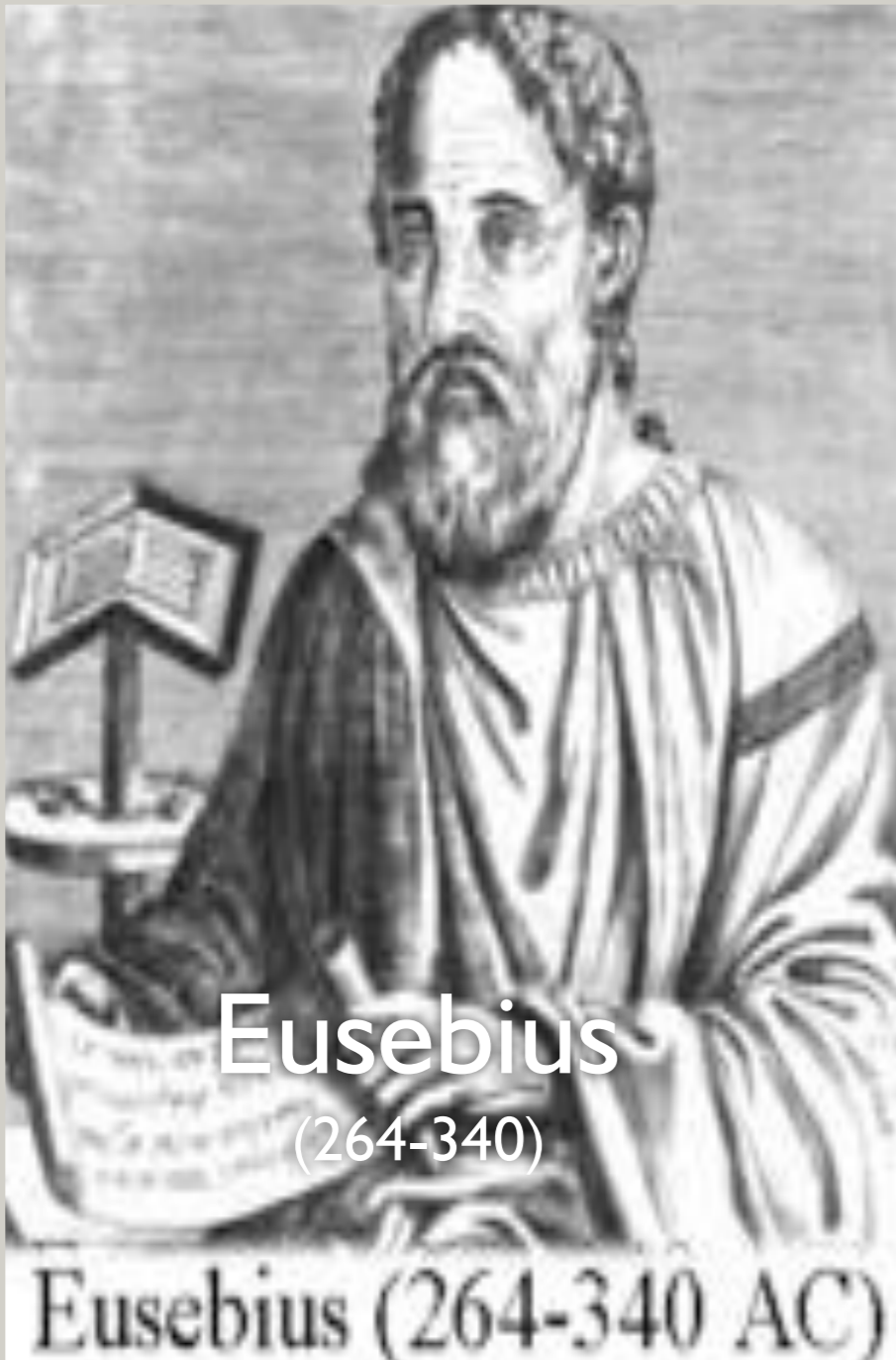


**Tertullian (c. A.D. 200):**

"Musical concerts with viol and lute belong to Apollo, to the Muses, to Minerva and Mercury who invented them; ye who are Christians, hate and abhor these things whose very authors themselves must be the object of loathing and aversion."

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History



**Eusebius**  
(264-340)

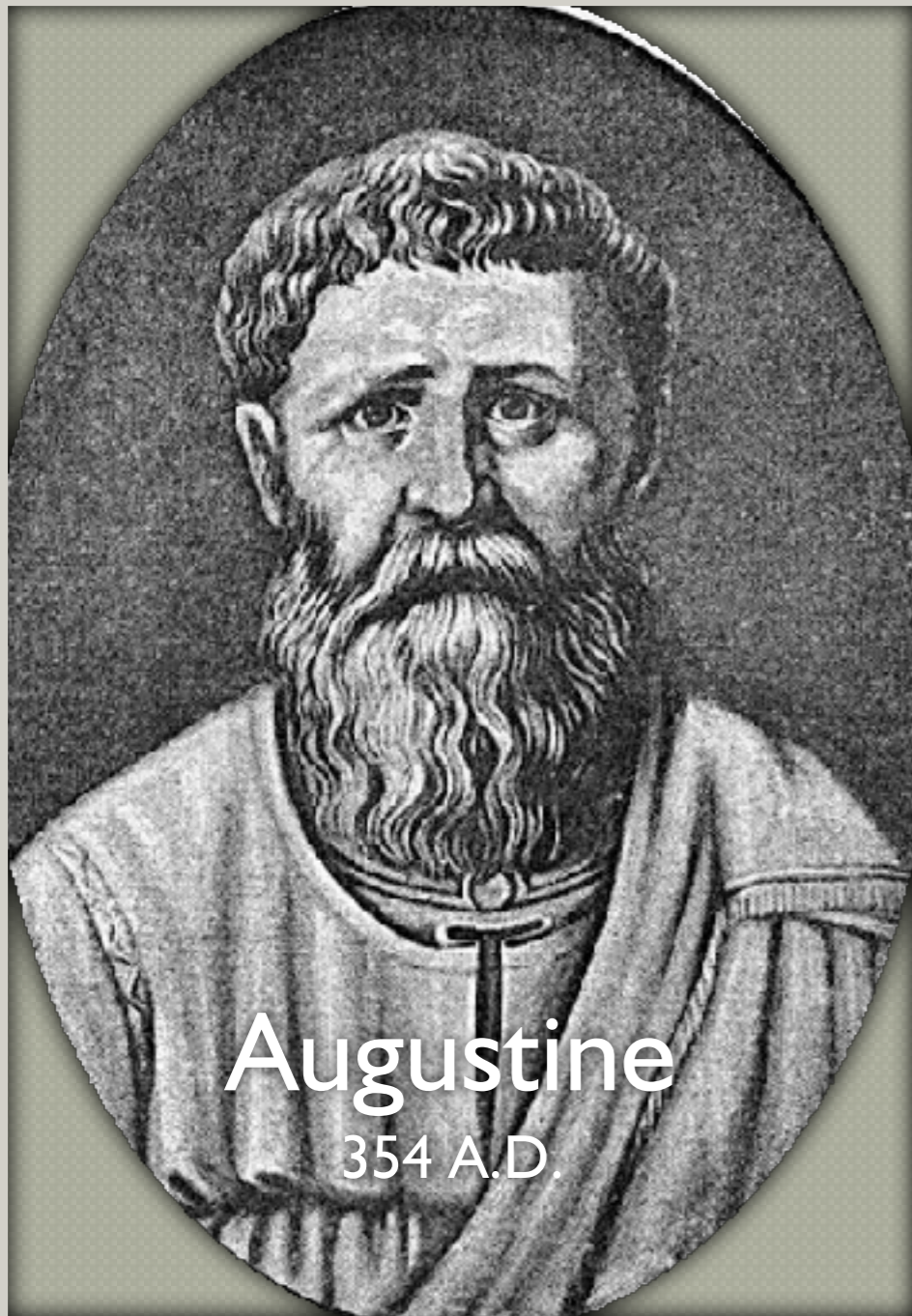
Eusebius (264-340 AC)

### **Eusebius (260-340):**

"Of old at the time those of the circumcision were worshiping with symbols and types it was not inappropriate to send up hymns to God with the psalterion and kithara . . . But we in an inward manner keep the part of the Jew, according to the saying of the apostle . . . [Romans 2:28f]. We render our hymns with a living psalterion and a living kithara, with spiritual songs. The unison voices of Christians would be more acceptable to God than any musical instrument" (Comments on Psalm 92:2-3).

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History



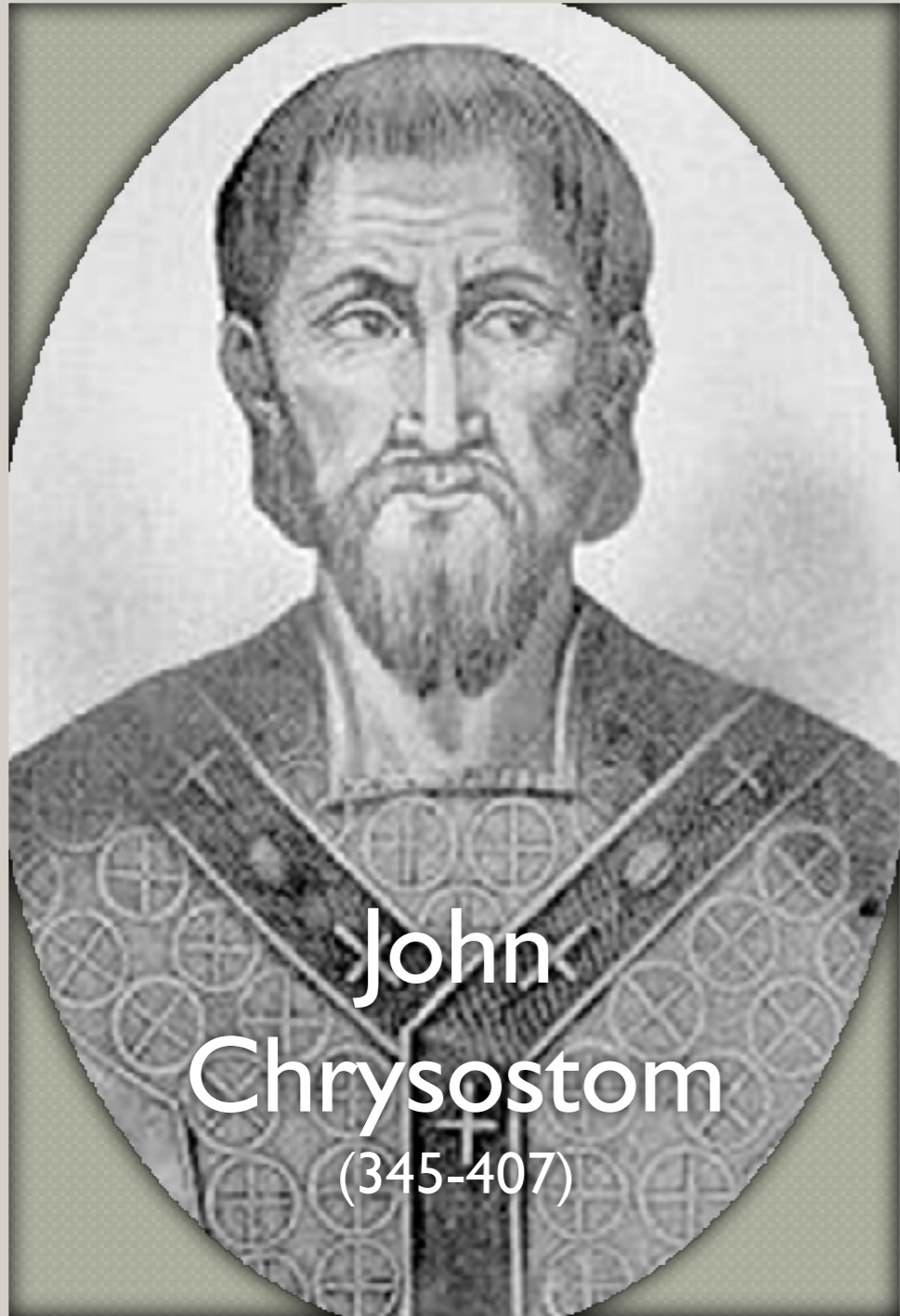
Augustine  
354 A.D.

### **Augustine 354 A.D.**

"musical instruments were not used. The pipe, tabret, and harp here associate so intimately with the sensual heathen cults, as well as with the wild revelries and shameless performances of the degenerate theater and circus, it is easy to understand the prejudices against their use in the worship."  
(Describing the singing at Alexandria under Athanasius)

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## The Voice Of History

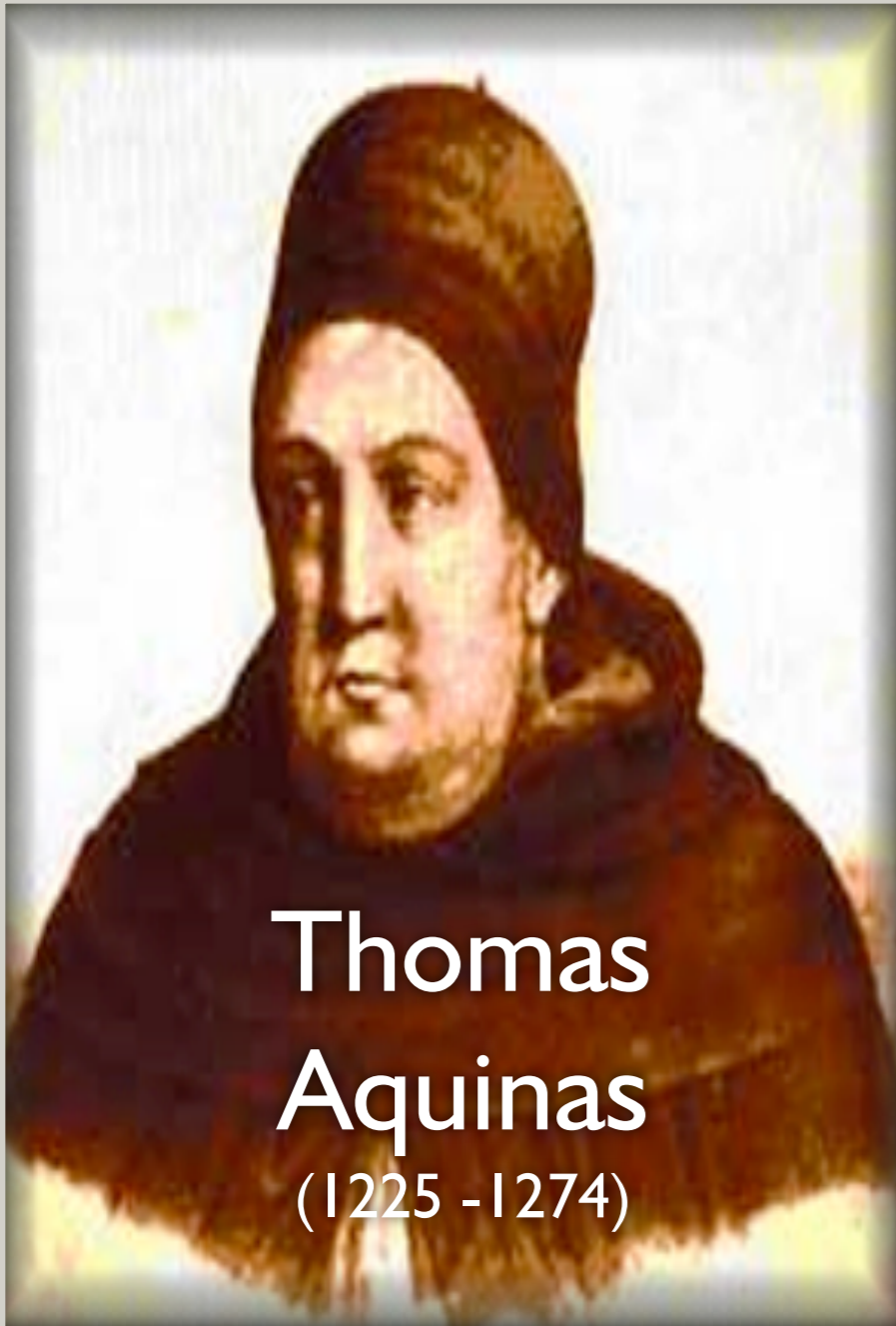


John  
Chrysostom  
(345-407)

**John Chrysostom (345-407):**  
"Just as the Jews are commanded to praise God with all musical instruments so we are commanded to praise him with all our members-the eye, the tongue, ear, the hand. These instruments were then allowed because of the weakness of the people, to train them to love and harmony" (Comments on Psalm 150)..

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## The Voice Of History



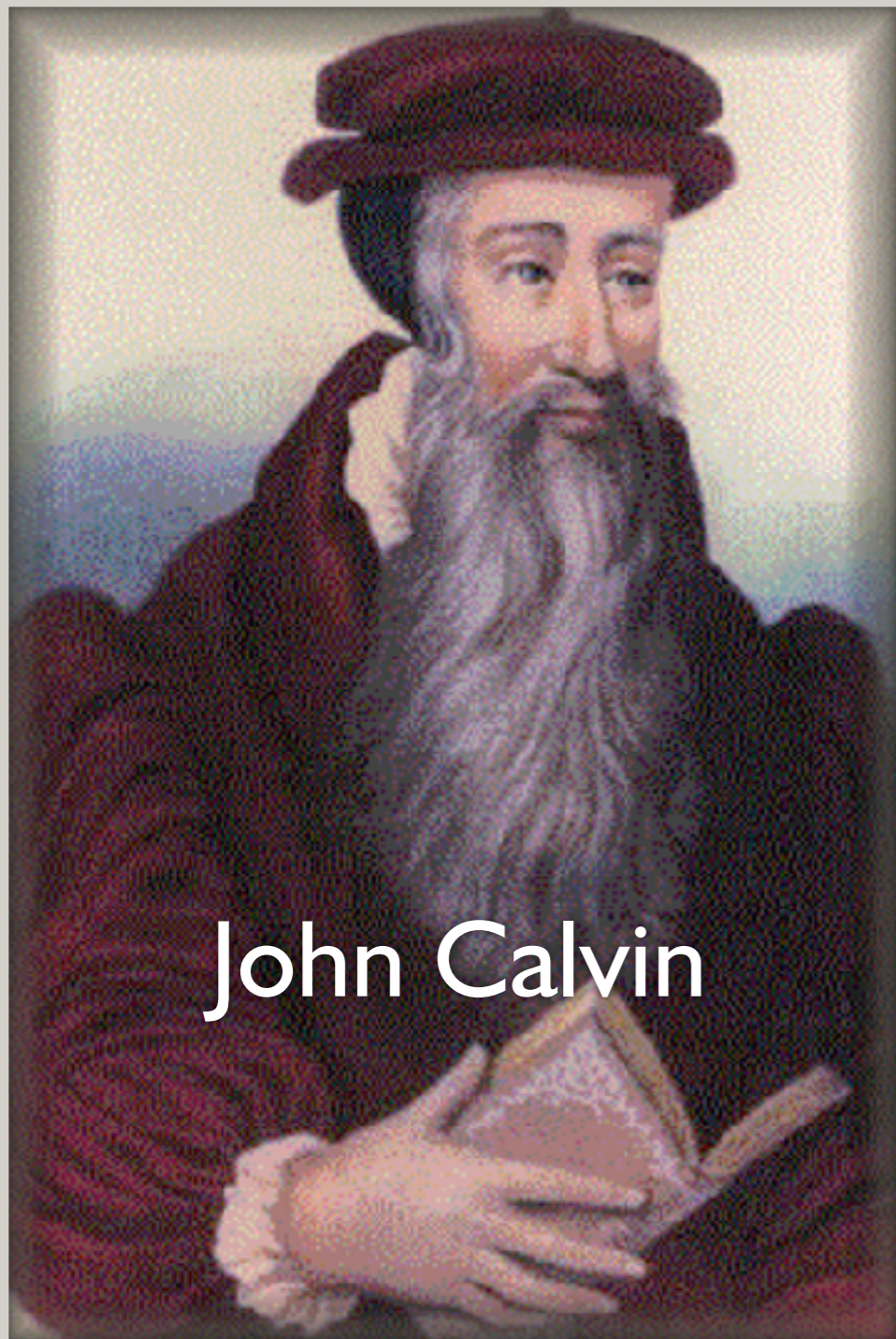
**Thomas  
Aquinas**  
(1225 -1274)

**Thomas Aquinas**  
(1225 -1274)

“Our church does not use musical instruments, as harps and psalteries, to praise God withal, that she may not seem to Judaize”  
(Thomas Aquinas, Bingham's Antiquities, Vol. 3, page 137)

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History



John Calvin

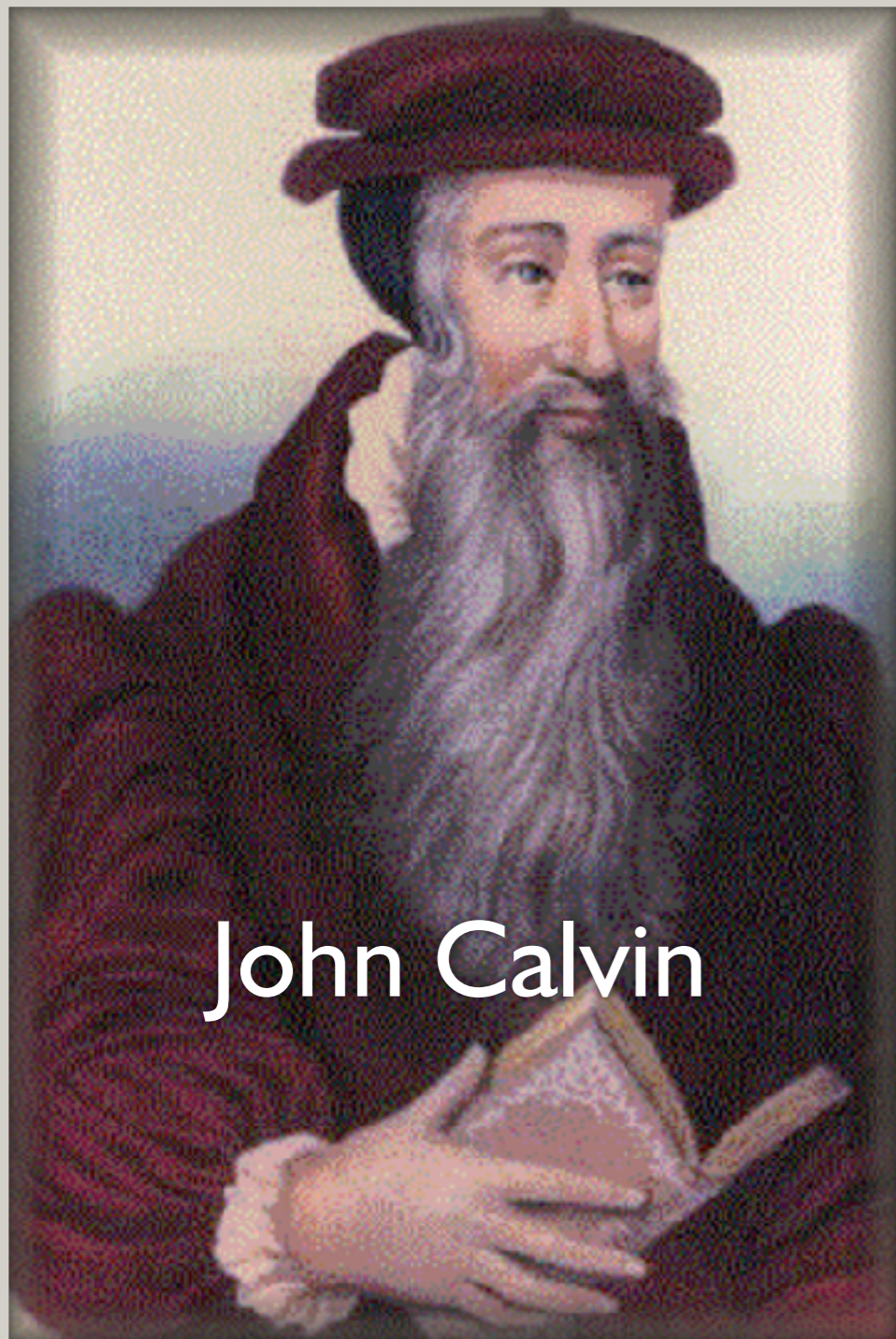
### John Calvin

"Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law. The Papists therefore, have foolishly borrowed, this, as well as many other things, from the Jews.

*(Commentary on Psalms 33)*

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History



John Calvin

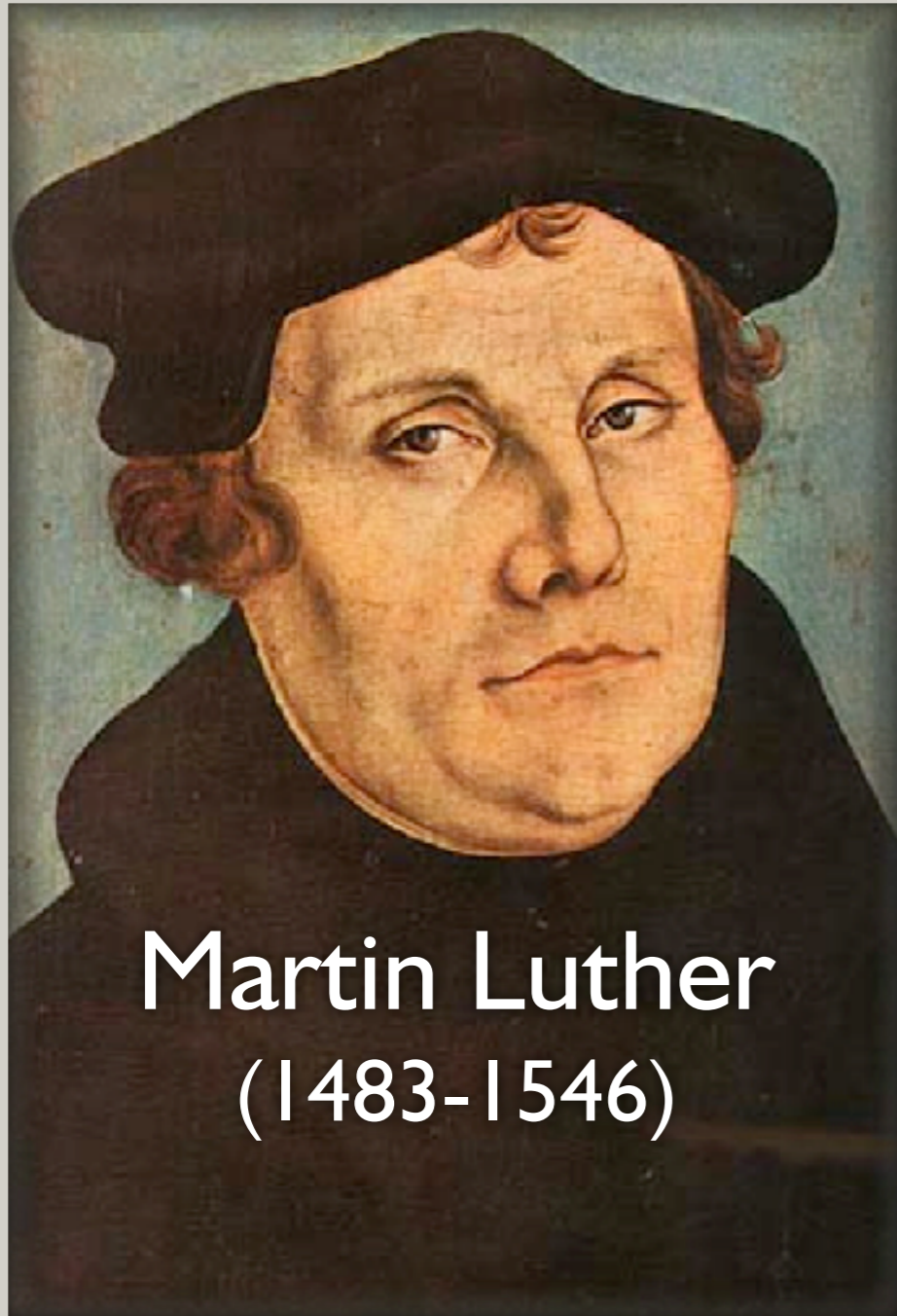
### **John Calvin**

Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in that noise; but the simplicity which God recommends to us by the apostles is far more pleasing to him. Paul allows us to bless God in the public assembly of the saints, only in a known tongue (I Cor. 14:16) What shall we then say of chanting, which fills the ears with nothing but an empty sound?"

*(Commentary on Psalms 33)*

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## The Voice Of History



**Martin Luther**  
(1483-1546)

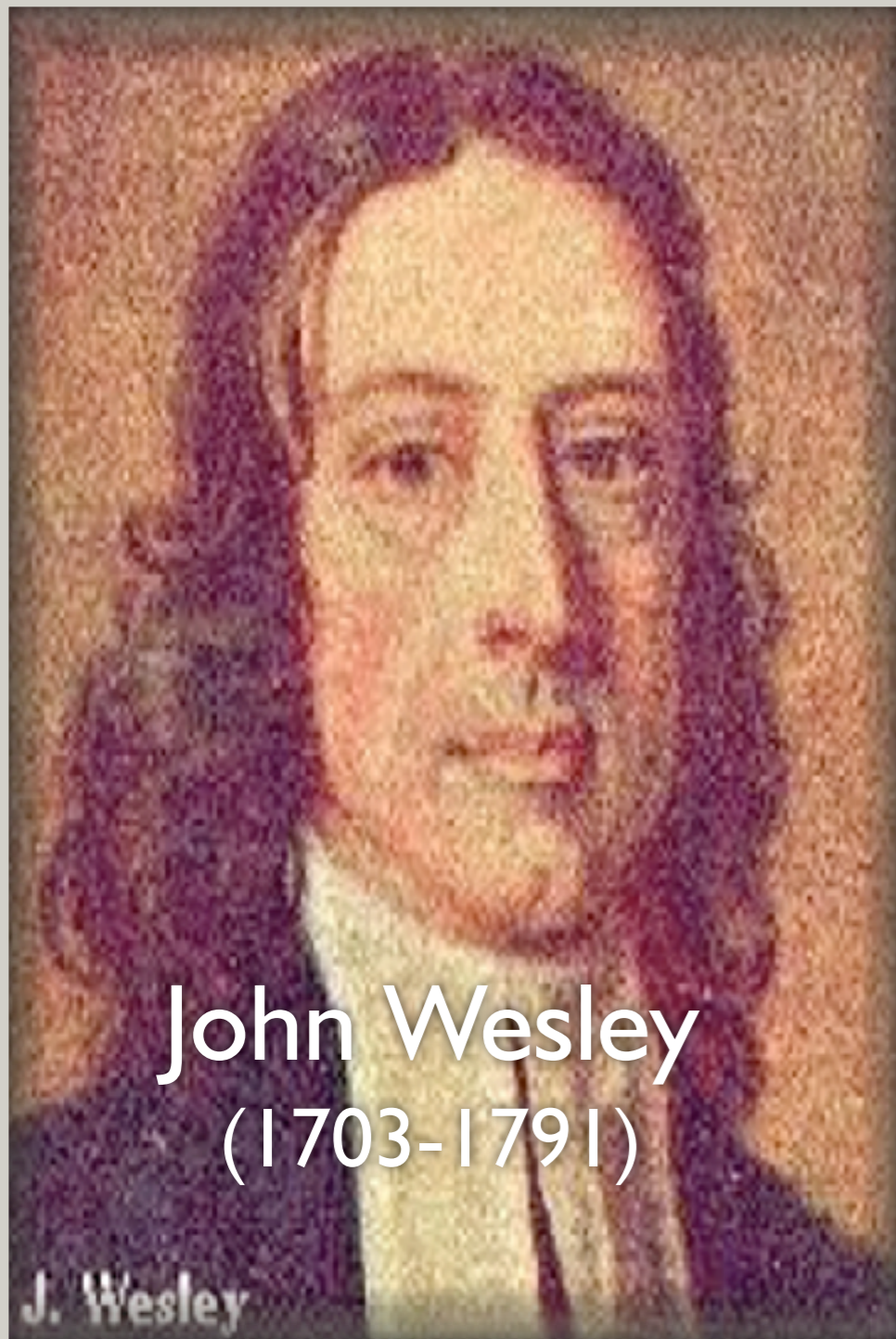
### **Martin Luther** **(1483-1546)**

"The organ in the worship Is the insignia of Baal... The Roman Catholic borrowed it from the Jews."

(Martin Luther, McClintock & Strong's Encyclopedia Volume VI, page 762)

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History



John Wesley  
(1703-1791)

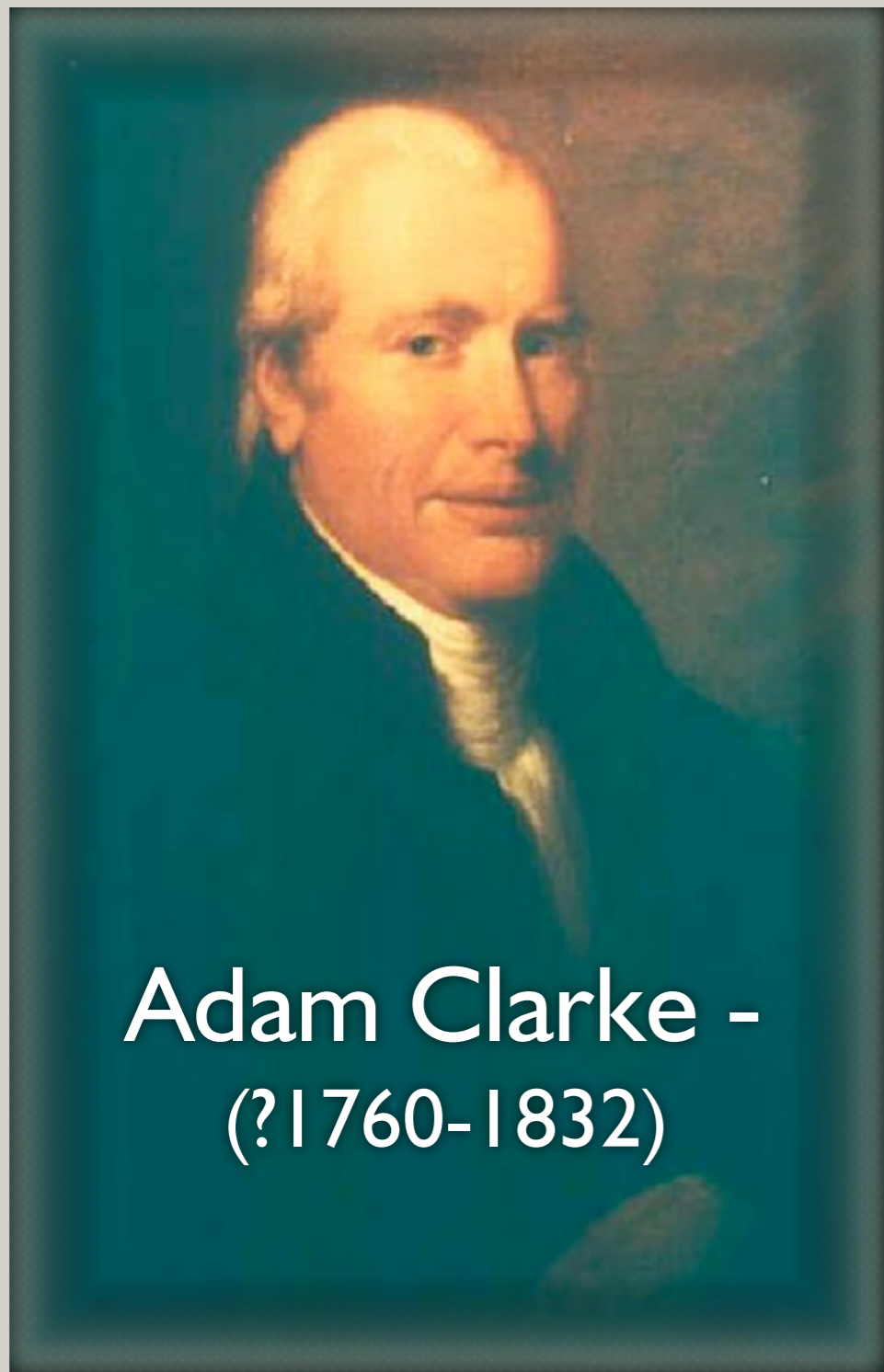
**John Wesley**  
**(1703-1791)**

"I have no objection to instruments of music in our worship, provided they are neither seen nor heard."

*(founder of Methodism)*

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History



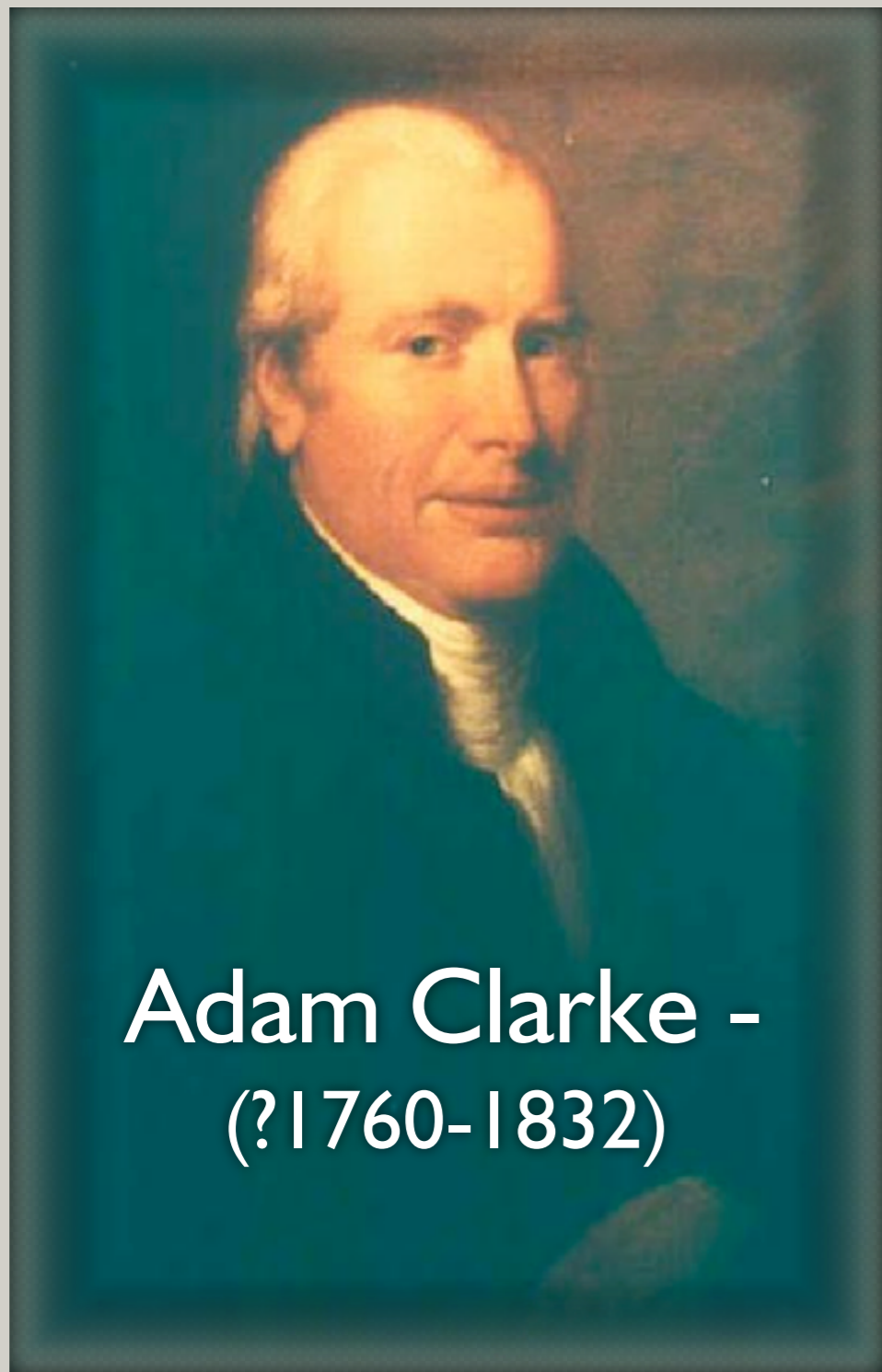
**Adam Clarke -**  
**(?1760-1832)**

### **Adam Clarke - (?1760-1832)**

"But were it even evident, . . . that instruments of music were prescribed by divine authority under the law, could this be adduced with any semblance of reason, that they ought to be used in Christian worship? No; the whole spirit, soul, and genius of the Christian religion are against this; and those who know the Church of God best, and what constitutes its genuine spiritual state. . .

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## The Voice Of History



**Adam Clarke -  
(?1760-1832)**

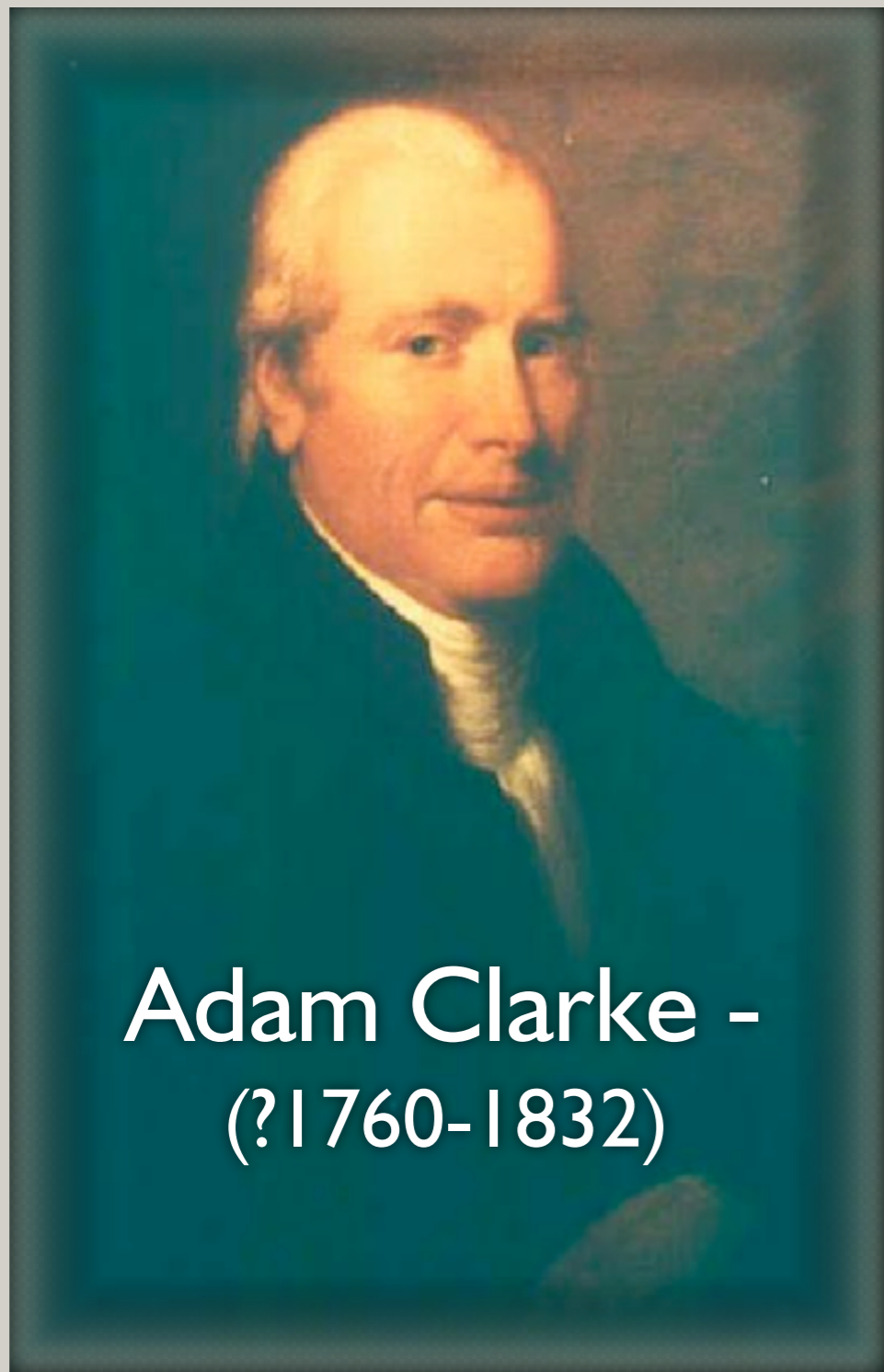
### **Adam Clarke - (?1760-1832)**

... know that these things have been introduced as a substitute for the life and power of religion; and that where they prevail most, there is least of the power of Christianity. Away with such portentous baubles from the worship of that infinite Spirit who requires His followers to worship Him in spirit and truth, for to no such worship are these instruments friendly."

(Clarke's Commentary Vol. II, pp. 690-691.)

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## The Voice Of History



**Adam Clarke -**  
(?1760-1832)

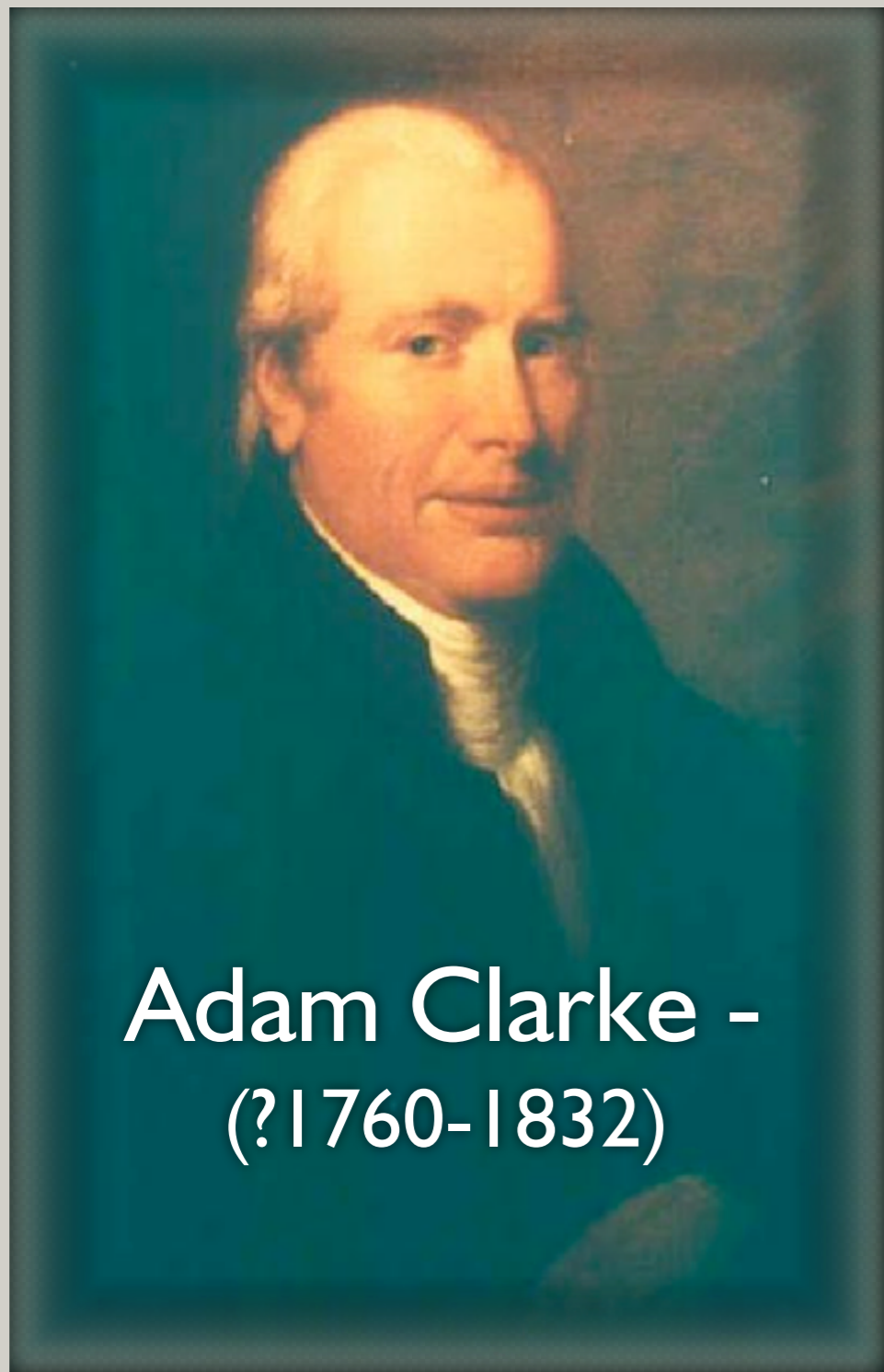
### **Adam Clarke - (?1760-1832)**

"I am an old man, and I here declare that I never knew them to be productive of any good in the worship of God, and have reason to believe that they are productive of much evil. Music as a science I esteem and admire, but instrumental music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music, and I here register my protest against all such corruption of the worship of the author of Christianity . . ."

(Clarke's Commentary Vol. II, pp. 690-691.)

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## The Voice Of History



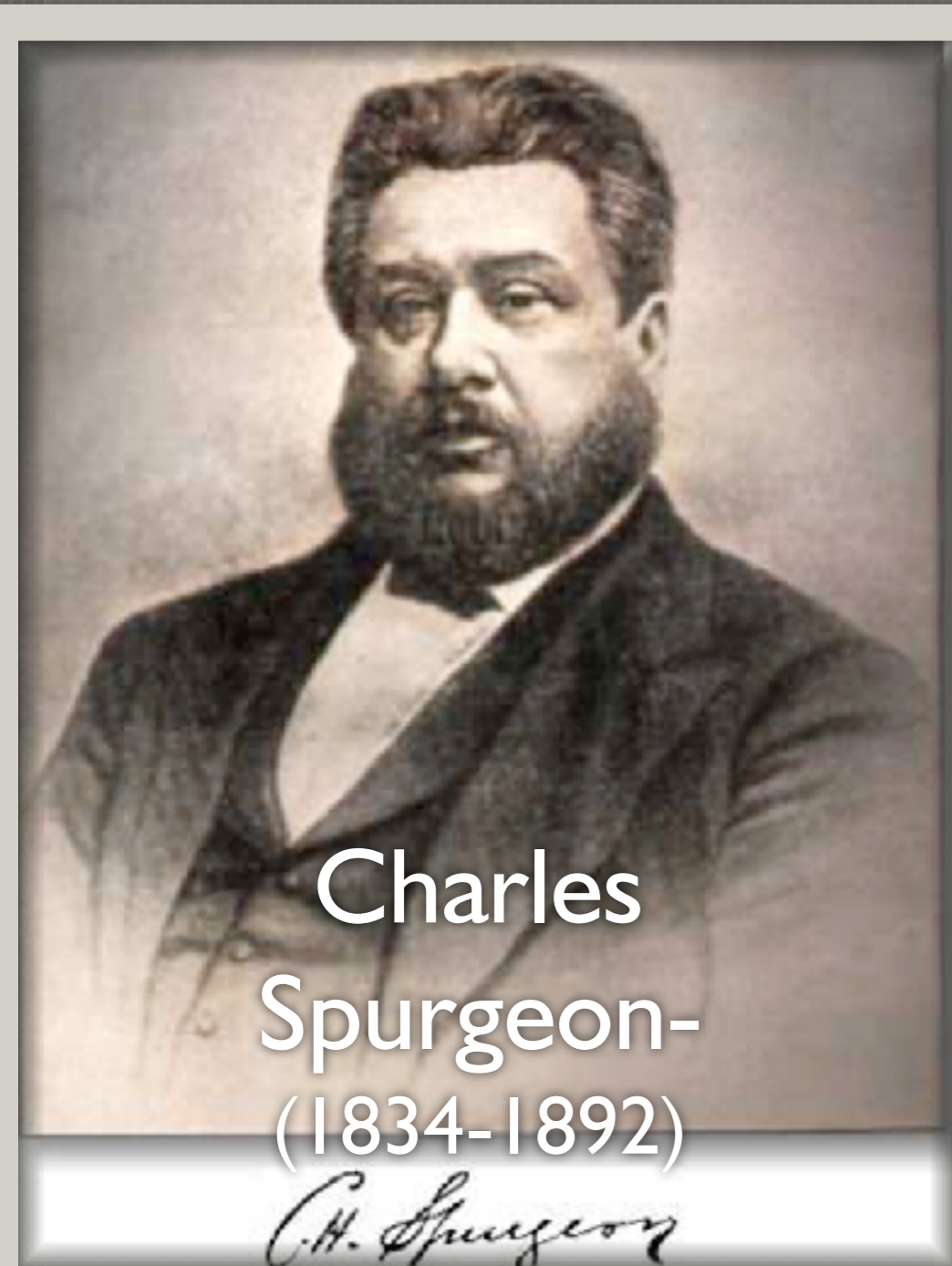
**Adam Clarke -  
(?1760-1832)**

### **Adam Clarke - (?1760-1832)**

“... John Wesley, who was a lover of music, and an elegant poet, when asked his opinion of instruments of music being introduced into the chapels of the Methodists, said in his terse and powerful manner, 'I have no objections to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen.' I say the same.” (Adam Clark, Methodist)  
(Clarke's Commentary Vol. II, pp. 690-691.)

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History

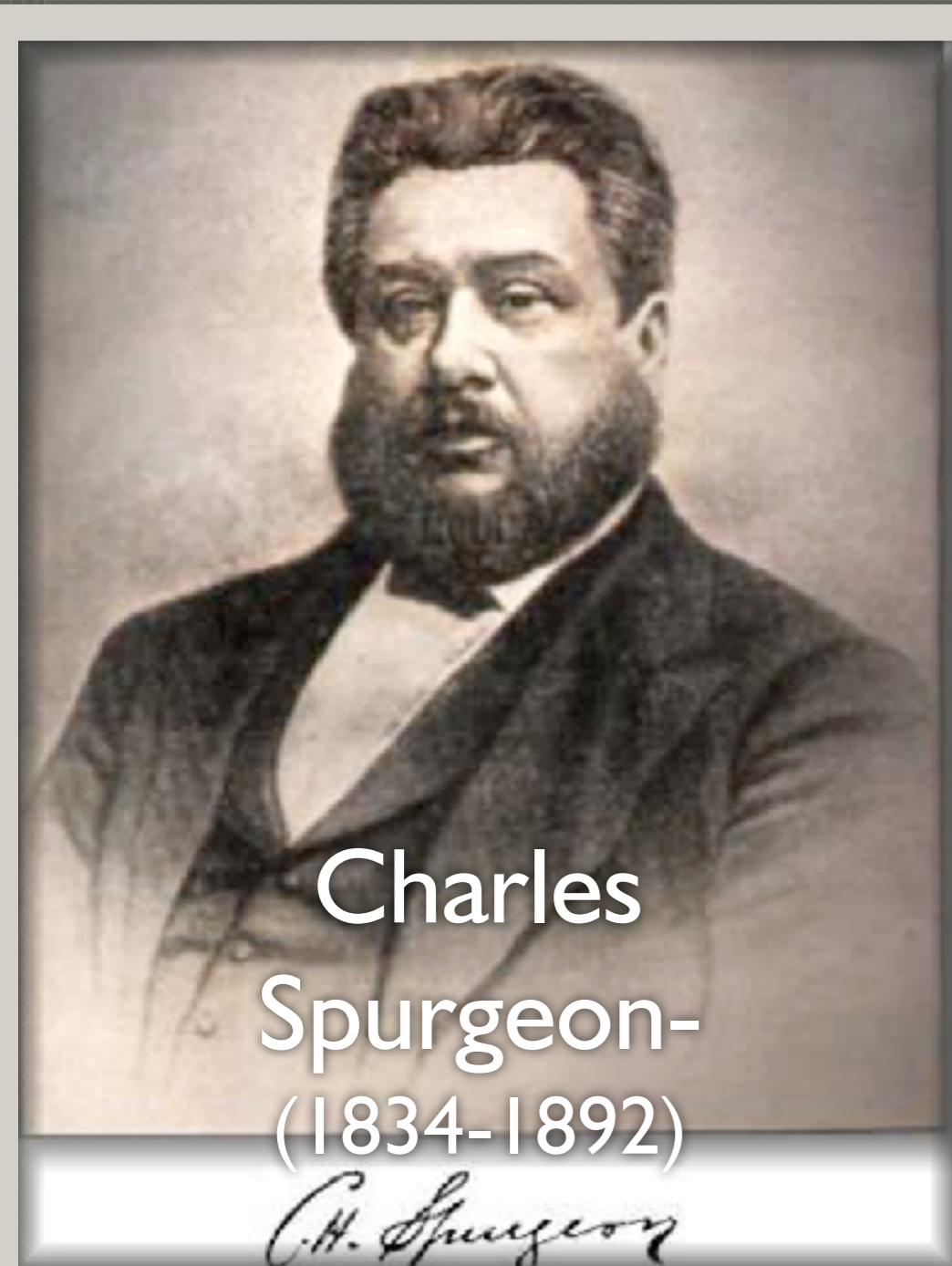


### **Charles Spurgeon -**

"David appears to have had a peculiarly tender remembrance of the singing of the pilgrims, and assuredly it is the most delightful part of worship and that which comes nearest to the adoration of heaven. What a degradation to supplant the intelligent song of the whole congregation by the theatrical prettiness of a quartet, bellows, and pipes. We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it..."

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History



**Charles Spurgeon -**  
... 'Praise the Lord with harp.' Israel was at school, and used childish things to help her to learn; but in these days when Jesus gives us spiritual food, one can make melody without strings and pipes... We do not need them. That would hinder rather than help our praise. Sing unto him. This is the sweetest and best music. No instrument is like the human voice." (Charles Spurgeon (Baptist), Commentary on Psalm 42.)

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History

### Question??

What is the relevance of the historical record in relation to this subject?

- ✦ “Many preachers like to bring up the fact that Charles Spurgeon, John Wesley, John Calvin, Martin Luther, and others did not use instruments. . . . ok, fine. But if I was to use other examples from this time period, would that nullify this argument?”
- ✦ “This is the most ridiculous argument I have ever heard!!! Even if you could make a decent point to me about this, then all you would prove is historical, not biblical”

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## The Voice Of History

### Question??

What is the relevance of the historical record in relation to this subject?

- ✦ FACT: - NO record of instruments prior to 666 A.D.
- ✦ FACT: The prevalent view of the reformers was that I.M. is wrong.
- ✦ If the NT church used I.M. with the approval of the apostles – history would tell a different story!!
- ✦ Who authorized I.M. music?
- ✦ We are not that ODD / We want to restore NT Christianity!

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

David Had  
& Used  
Them –  
I Chr 23:5

- ✦ What about animal sacrifices, the burning of incense, and the Passover. (Amos 5:21-23; 6:5)
- ✦ We are no longer under the Old Testament – we are under the New Testament. (Col. 2:14; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 10:9-10)
- ✦ We must find authority for all that we do in the New Testament. Col. 3:17; 2 John 1:9

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

Harps are in  
heaven –  
Revelation  
5:8 &  
Revelation  
14:2

## **Revelation 5:8 (NKJV)**

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

Harps are in  
heaven –  
Revelation  
5:8 &  
Revelation  
14:2

## **Revelation 14:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> And I heard a voice from  
heaven, like the voice of many  
waters, and like the voice of  
loud thunder. And I heard the  
sound of harpists playing their  
harps.

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

Harps are in  
heaven –  
Revelation  
5:8 &  
Revelation  
14:2

- ✦ Literal harps?
- ✦ What are the golden bowls of incense?
- ✦ Other things in the context – The scroll, (5:1-4), The throne, Lamb, seven horns, eyes & spirits, (5:6), A Lamb; 144,000;
- ✦ Names written on forehead; (14:1); Many waters; Loud thunders, (14:2); virgins who follow the lamb; (14:4).

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

The Greek  
term “Psallo”  
– includes  
mechanical  
Instrumental  
Music

**1. Argument:** Strongs definition of Psallo - “to twitch or twang, i.e. to play on a stringed instrument (celebrate the divine worship with music and accompanying odes) :- make melody, sing (psalms).” – therefore Instrumental music is included in Eph 5:19

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

The Greek  
term “Psallo”  
– includes  
mechanical  
Instrumental  
Music

- 1. Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament – Col. 3:16 -**  
See the parallel passage, Ephesians 5:19. A psalm was originally a song accompanied by a stringed instrument. See on 1 Corinthians 14:15. The idea of accompaniment passed away in usage, . . .

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

The Greek  
term “Psallo”  
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**Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament – 1 Cor. 14:15** - In Eph\_5:19 we have both verbs.

The noun ψαλμός psalm (Eph\_5:19; Col\_3:16; 1Co\_14:26), which is etymologically akin to this verb, is used in the New Testament of a religious song in general, having the character of an Old Testament psalm; . . . The verb is used here in the general sense of singing praise.

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To

## Defend Instrumental Music -

**Thayer Definition: G5567** ψάλλω psallō

- 1) to pluck off, pull out –
- 2) to cause to vibrate by touching, to twang - 2a) to touch or strike the chord, to twang the strings of a musical instrument so that they gently vibrate - 2b) to play on a stringed instrument, to play, the harp, etc. - 2c) to sing to the music of the harp - 2d) **in the NT** to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song

**Part of Speech:** verb

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To

## Defend Instrumental Music -

**BDAG** - *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.*

The original mng. was 'pluck', 'play' (a stringed instrument); this persisted at least to the time of Lucian (cp. Par. 17). In the LXX. freq. means 'sing', whether to the accompaniment of an instrument (Ps 32:2, 97:5 al.) or not, as is usually the case (Ps 7:18; 9:12; 107:4 al.). This focus on singing continued until **in Mod. Gk. means 'sing' exclusively**; singer, chanter, **w. no ref. to instrumental accompaniment**. Although the NT does not voice opposition to instrumental music, in view of Christian resistance to mystery cults, as well as Pharisaic aversion to musical instruments in worship, it is likely that some such sense as make melody is best understood in this Eph pass. Those who favor 'play' may be relying too much on the earliest mng. . . . (*Emph mine, DM*)

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

The Greek term “Psallo” – includes mechanical Instrumental Music

**1. ARGUMENT:** “In Rom 15:9, the Apostle Paul quoted Ps 18:49. Does not the Hebrew word ‘zamar’ imply musical accompaniment in Ps 18:49?”

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

The Greek  
term “Psallo”  
– includes  
mechanical  
Instrumental  
Music

✦ **Psallo in the Septuagint translates three different Hebrew words.**

1. Nagan which means “to play” and never “to sing. (Ps 33:3)
2. Shir which means “to sing” and never “to play.”
3. Zamar which means “to sing” with or w/o an instrument.

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

The Greek  
term “Psallo”  
— includes  
mechanical  
Instrumental  
Music

- ✦ Fact: Neither zamar nor psallo mean “to play an instrument.”
- ✦ Zamar means “to pluck or pick” and is translated “prune” in the OT (Leviticus 25:3-4; Isaiah 5:6).
- ✦ Psallo is used of many things that may be “twitched” or “plucked” as a carpenter’s line, a bow string, hair, a harp.

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

The Greek  
term “Psallo”  
– includes  
mechanical  
Instrumental  
Music

- ✦ In the LXX - Whenever psallo translates the Hebrew verb zamar and is rendered “play,” the object of the verb is always specified.
- ✦ Examples: Psalm 33:2-3; 71:22, 23; 98:5; 144:9; 147:7; 149:3.
- ✦ Zamar means “sing” when used absolutely. It cannot mean otherwise (e.g., Jdgs. 5:3; Ps. 9:1-2, 11; 21:13; 27:6; 57:7; 68:4; Isa. 12:5).

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

The Greek  
term “Psallo”  
– includes  
mechanical  
Instrumental  
Music

- ✦ FACT: When the verb Psallo is used in translating Zamar and an instrument is involved – the instrument is always specified –
- ✦ FACT: Playing a musical instrument is NOT inherent in the word . . . else it could not also translate Shir!
- ✦ FACT: If an instrument was indeed inherent in the word – then one could NOT sing a Psalm without the use of a mechanical instrument.

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

The Greek  
term “Psallo”  
– includes  
mechanical  
Instrumental  
Music

- ✦ In the New Testament – the verb Psallo does NOT imply – NOR INCLUDE instrumental music!!
- ✦ In Ephesians 5:19 – the term Psallo retains its meaning to cause to vibrate by touching, to twang when it points to the heart. Thus specifying an instrument – THE HEART!

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

Instruments Are Merely Aides Like Song Leaders; Song Books & Pitch Pipes	Specified:	Excludes
	<b>The Participants</b> –“one another”	Solos & Choirs! Playing instrument!
	<b>The Kind of Songs</b> – “Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,”	Patriotic songs, holiday jingles, secular songs -
	<b>The Instrument</b> –“. . .in your heart to the Lord”	Making melody on a piano! Entertainment!

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Some Arguments Used To Defend Instrumental Music -

**These change the type (nature, characteristic) of the music “specified.”**

God Specified:

- ✦ The Participants –
- ✦ The Kind of Songs -
- ✦ The Instrument to be Used

### **Excludes**

Solos & Choirs!  
Playing instrument!

Patriotic songs, holiday jingles, secular songs -

Making melody on a piano!  
Entertainment!

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Conclusion



- ✦ Singing without an instrument can be done by faith – 2 Cor 5:10; Rom 10:17; Jude 3
- ✦ History confirms that Mechanical instruments were NOT used in the NT church – and condemned when introduced.
- ✦ None of the arguments proposed to defend I.M. hold up when examined by the Bible!

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Conclusion



### **Not Because:**

- ✦ They are evil in and of themselves -
- ✦ Merely preference -

### **But Because:**

- ✦ There is no authority for using mechanical instruments of music in worship . . . Col 3:17

# The Odd Folks Who Don't Have Pianos

## Conclusion



- ◆ Singing without mechanical accompaniment is right – to which everyone will agree!
- ◆ What's Wrong With Making It As Sure As you Can?

