

INSTRUMENTS OF GOD

Ephesians 4:4-13; 1 Corinthians 11:7-9; Psalm 8

Introduction: An "instrument" is something that has a particular use and is used by someone for a purpose of his/her own choosing. There are musical instruments, instructional instruments, instruments of work, instruments of exercise, instruments of entertainment, etc. People can even be designated as "instruments." Ever think of yourself as an "instrument?" God thinks we are.

I. GOD'S HUMAN INSTRUMENT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. In the beginning God created man and did so for man to carry out God's will.
2. Man was appointed to do God's will throughout the Old Testament: Moses, Abraham, Moses, etc.
3. Through man, God planned the salvation of the world and used prophets to tell others of His plans.
4. God ordered that man was to be the head of the family.

II. GOD'S HUMAN INSTRUMENT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. God's plan for the use of man did not change in the New Testament.
2. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to come into this world and become a man, an instrument.
3. Jesus selected ordinary men to be used as instruments in His work for God, the Father.
4. The Church was spread by men, all were instruments, used by God to spread the Gospel
5. Through men, instruments, Christianity spread with men like Stephen, Phillip, Annanias.

III. GOD'S PLAN FOR TODAY

1. God's plan still has not changed, even in our day.
2. Man's responsibility as instruments has not lessened a bit.
3. It is still through men, YOU and ME that God intends to work.
4. Sadly, many have departed from the New Testament Church:
 - in thinking that Pastors are to do it all, but that's not so (*Ephesians 4:4-13*)
 - forgetting that the average member has an advantage over the pastor
 - no professional "image"
 - more influence in visiting
 - more response when speaking
 - closer to everyday life witnessing situations

- think that God's plan for today consists in "listening" to the pastor's message.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians cannot win the world except that a radical change occurs within them.
2. Christians must live their lives and enjoy their lives MORE than the world does.
3. Every Christian is a Minister - SAY IT WITH ME.....
4. It is through Christians, YOU AND ME only that God moves.
5. What do you say Christian?