

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP; BEING A
REVIEW OF A WORK BY M. C.
KURFEES ENTITLED "INSTRUMENTAL
MUSIC IN THE WORSHIP"**

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J. B. BRINEY

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Instrumental Music in Christian Worship

Being a Review of a Work by M. C. Kurfees
Entitled "Instrumental Music
in the Worship"

BY

J . B . B R I N E Y

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"Baptism and Remission of Sins,"
"The Temptations of
Christ," etc.*



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To all who love truth and desire the peace
and prosperity of the Church of Christ,
this volume is respectfully
dedicated by

THE AUTHOR

PREFACE

Forasmuch as Bro. M. C. Kurfees has somewhat recently given to the reading public quite a pretentious work on the subject embraced in this volume, whose reasoning is specious but fallacious, it seemed proper for me, in the interest of truth, and to promote harmony among the disciples, to review said work, and point out its inconsequential reasoning, that brethren may have the means of protection against error. I believe that Bro. Kurfees thought he was doing God service by the publication of his book, and that his effort would contribute to the advancement of truth; but I am quite sure that he erred in both particulars, and that his work is calculated to do much harm unless its effect is counteracted.

Bro. Kurfees has burdened his book with too much learning, thus putting it largely out of the reach of the average reader. This I have tried to avoid as far as possible, though I found it necessary to engage to some extent in Greek criticism to make manifest Bro. Kurfees' mistakes with re-

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spect to *psallo*, which, by the common consent of the best modern Greek scholars, meant to sing either with or without an instrument in New Testament times. I have avoided the use of Greek letters altogether, so that the English reader can at least pronounce every word employed, and the meaning may be easily ascertained from the context and the testimony of competent scholars.

The author believes that this book ought to take the question discussed out of the realm of controversy, and put it among things definitely settled among candid thinkers. If this be not the case, then it is difficult, if not impossible, to see how such a question could be settled. Scholarship, facts and circumstances have been so combined as to leave no room for candid and unprejudiced doubt on the subject, and whatever may have been the case heretofore, it is believed any further disturbance over the matter of using an instrument in singing the songs of Zion, will be without excuse. The book reviewed contains the most elaborate and plausible argument, so far as the reviewer knows, that has ever been published in opposition to instrumental music in worship, and it may be regarded as the final word on that side of the question. The author of this review believes that he has fairly, fully and successfully met and refuted Bro. Kurfees' whole contention, and his reply

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is submitted to fair-minded readers in the confident belief that there can be but one result.

With the single desire that truth may prevail, this work is sent forth upon whatever mission Divine Providence may assign it.

J. B. BRINEY.

Pewee Valley, Ky.

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