

They offered something other than what God had commanded, and they paid for it with their lives. This is symbolic of events on judgment day when some may believe they are doing the will of God, but aren't. **Mat 7:21** *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Throughout history, bells have served important roles. Before the telephone, email and the internet, the bell was a means of communication between towns, and also between the church and the congregation. In times past and even in certain places today, the church bell is rung three times a day as a means to remind people to pray. This is based upon Jewish tradition and a couple of Bible verses such as Psalms 55:17 and Daniel 6:10 which indicate prayer at three times throughout the day. Praying at least three times a day is a good thing, but perhaps when we place specific times for that prayer to occur it becomes work, rather than part of a relationship. Nonetheless, just as the bell can be used to remind us to pray, it can be used to mark UN-Godly

acts as well. As an example, consider the practice of ringing a bell at the moment of consecration. There are those who believe that the bread and the wine that are consumed during communion, are actually the real flesh and blood of Christ. Those who believe this, refer to the moment that the bread and wine are turned into "flesh and blood" as the moment of consecration. The process by which the bread and wine are supposedly turned into flesh and blood is called transubstantiation. Christ is sacrificed over and over in the minds of those who participate in this version of the communion rite. The idea of Christ being sacrificed over and over is in violation of the very word of God, which tells us that our Christ offered Himself up once. **Heb 7:27** *Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.* In the transubstantiation version of communion, the adoration for Christ is transferred to the bread and the wine. What was intended by Christ to be symbolic, becomes pagan through transference. No longer is the Christ worshiped, but now the bread and the wine become viewed as Holy and take His place. Forms of the Christian church have burned many a person at the stake for refusing to believe in this unholy and un-Biblical principle. On the issue of transubstantiation alone have the saints willingly given their

lives. Yet, today it is widely accepted without much thought being given to whether the concept is right or wrong. The masses unknowingly but willingly submit themselves to this idolatrous act, and they mark the moment of their transgression by the ringing of a bell.

Everything in the sanctuary serves a purpose. To what does the toll of a bell remind us, when we are already engaged in worship at the public sanctuary? What can that ringing bell do to bring us closer to Christ when we are already at His feet? The answer is that it can only distract.

Bells are also sometimes "baptized". The "baptized" bells have been used by church goers who believed the ringing bell scared away devils and protected the dead from demonic attacks.

In the temple worship at Jerusalem, bells were indeed worn by the priest. There was also a real lamb placed upon the altar. This was symbolic of the plan of salvation. Just as the lamb was a symbol then, so is the bread and the wine a symbol now. The lamb was no more Christ then, that the wafer and wine are Christ now. Perhaps the bell has a role to play in the sanctuary today, as it did then. But, surely it cannot be to mark the moment of confluence between Christ and idolatry at the instant of "transubstantiation", or in the superstitious belief of scaring away demons.

There is much more information on this topic on the website.

Christmas Bells

There is certainly nothing wrong with bells in and of themselves. The Bible mentions bells in at least five verses (See Exo 28:33, Exo 28:34, Exo 39:25, Exo 39:26 and Zec 14:20). Those verses make it clear that bells can serve a purpose that is acceptable to God. They were used on the garments of the priest, not as an object of worship, but as an object of purpose. Exo 28:2 tells us that they were made for glory and beauty. Exo 28:35 adds that the purpose of the bells was so the priest could be heard when he went into the holy place before the LORD. The most important thing that we must remember about the use of the bells on the priestly garments, is that the LORD commanded that they be used in that manner (see Exo 39:26). God commanded it, therefore it was acceptable to Him. We do not get to choose how we worship God. He chooses what is acceptable to Him. This principle can be made no more clear than it is in Leviticus 10:1 and 10:2. *Lev 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. Lev 10:2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.* We aren't told what Nadab & Abihu offered to the LORD, we are just told it was strange.

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Bells



This informational pamphlet gives the reader a basic understanding of the use of bells in Christianity.

