

Singing....to the Lord

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:1-17

1. It has been said that “a worship service is only as good as the singing.”
 - A. Why would this be a true statement?
 - B. When ALL are participating, then ALL are giving to the service.
 - 1) The more we give, then the more we reap.
 - C. Singing often times sets the tone for the worship hour. The prayers and lesson seem to be even better when the singing is good. Again, Why?
 - 1) It is because ALL are participating, giving of themselves for God’s service and for the edification of the saints.
 - We are not here just for the taking.
 - 2) We must exhort in order to be exhorted.

2. Singing has the potential of reaping great spiritual benefits to those who engage in it properly.

A. Those who walked with God in Old Testament times delighted in singing.

Psalms 146:1-2 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! While I live I will praise the LORD; **I will sing praises to my God** while I have my being.

B. Christians were taught to respond to the goodness of God in a similar way.

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? **Let him sing psalms.**

3. But there are indications in many churches which cause me to wonder if some have lost the joy of singing.

A. Some Christians sing with virtually no emotion.

B. Some go one step further, and do not sing at all.

C. I have even known of Christians that would not attend a worship service if they knew it would be devoted primarily to singing.

D. BUT, in contrast, some people travel great distances to attend a service that is devoted to praising God in song.

4. So, why do such conditions exist? It may be simply a failure to appreciate:

A. The true purpose of singing.

B. Or — how we can get more out of singing.

5. Singing is very important. We have scriptural authority to sing in worship. There are 9 New Testament scriptures that mention singing.

- ◆ Matthew 26:30
- ◆ Acts 16:25
- ◆ Romans 15:9
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 14:15
- ◆ Ephesians 5:19
- ◆ Colossians 3:16
- ◆ Hebrews 2:12
- ◆ Hebrews 13:15
- ◆ James 5:13

SEE CHART (in Powerpoint Presentation)

- A. When we consider these verses and what they teach, how can we say or act like singing is really not that important?**

What Should We Sing?

1. Psalms

- A. In all probability the psalms are the inspired psalms of the Hebrew canon.**
- B. The Psalms were used as songs of praise, devotion, and exaltation of God.**
- 1) Songs such as: “Hallelujah praise Jehovah”; “The Lord’s My Shepherd.”**

2. Hymns

A. A hymn is a song of praise addressed to God.

1) The main point of a hymn is praise

2) Some Psalms are also hymns, but not all.

B. Some examples of hymns are: “Hallelujah, What A Savior”; “Praise Him! Praise Him!”; “Holy, Holy, Holy”; “Praise the Lord.”

Matthew 26:30

Acts 16:25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

3. Spiritual Songs

A. A spiritual song is based on spiritual things. “Songs of which the burden is the things revealed by the Spirit.”

B. Some examples of spiritual songs are: “Love one Another”; “Send the Light”; “Near to the Heart of God.”

4. Our worship to God is to be filled with Psalms, Hymns, and spiritual songs. This would exclude secular songs like the national anthem, Happy birthday, etc.

How Should We Sing?

1. Since we are talking about worship, it must be in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

2. When we sing, we must do so.....

A. With grace in our hearts (Colossians 3:16)

B. Making melody in our heart (Ephesians 5:19)

1) This involves our emotions as we sing (sing with feeling)!

a. To sing without emotion (without grace in our heart) will be evident in our countenances.

Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

b. To sing without grace and melody in our heart is hypocritical, and condemned by Jesus.

Matthew 15:8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

3. We need to sing with understanding

1 Corinthians 14:15 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.

A. We must engage our mind when we sing.

Remember, singing is “teaching and admonishing one another.”

- 1) Think about and give careful attention to the words that we are singing to God and to one another.

What Is the Purpose of Singing?

1. To Praise God

A. Praising God should be “a natural” for all Christians!

Psalms 28:6-7 Blessed be the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.

B. We are singing to praise God, therefore our singing is directed toward God. We need to always keep this in mind.

Psalms 100

1 Corinthians 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

2. To Teach and Admonish One Another

Colossians 3:16 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.

A. We are to edify and be edified in the assembly. One way to do this is in our singing

1 Corinthians 14:26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. **Let all things be done for edification.**

1) As we sing, we are teaching others as well as our self

2) We do this through exhorting and warning.

a. Congregational singing is Congregational teaching.

B. Our invitation song is a song directed to all to put on Christ and to turn from sin.

C. The emphasis should be placed on the words, and the melody is in our heart.

1) God expects us to do what we can do, what he has blessed us with the ability to do.

2) We are instruments of righteousness

a. God made us with everything that we need to worship and praise Him.

Conclusion

1. Learn the importance of singing in our worship to God.
2. Have we lost the joy of singing?
 - A. What about those who do not sing?
 - 1) They do not praise God.
 - 2) They do not teach others.
 - 3) They do not admonish anybody.
 - 4) They disobey God's command.
3. Let us consider some questions:
 - A. Which is more important when we sing, how we sound or how we feel?
 - B. Are we really teaching and admonishing one another in song if we just whisper or mouth the words?
 - C. Which is unscriptural, singing with mechanical instruments, or singing without engaging the instrument of the heart?
4. I hope that by reminding ourselves of the purpose of singing and how to get more out of it, we might rekindle this act of worship which can do so much for our walk with God!

Hebrews 13:15

Psalms 104:33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

Psalms 147:1 Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.

