

MUSIC IN THE WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Music has its God-given place and purpose in the worship of the church. In this lesson we want to examine three aspects of music as it pertains to the worship of the church:

- 1) The kind of music authorized (specified).
- 2) The purpose served by music.
- 3) How music is to be done.

I. The Kind of Music Authorized (Specified)

- A. Singing- Read: Mt. 26:30; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; I Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Jas. 5:13.
- B. This is a specific command and excludes all other kinds of music. (Instrumental or vocal with instrumental). Compare the command to sing with these other specific commands of God:
 - 1) Noah- was commanded to build the ark of Gopher wood, Gen. 6:14. Could Noah have used pine, oak, cypress, etc. and still have been pleasing to God?
 - 2) Aaron- was commanded to offer two he goats and a ram in atonement, Lev.16. Could Aaron have offered two possums and an armadillo and still have been pleasing to God?
 - 3) Christians- have been commanded to sing (see verses under I.A.). Can we replace singing with instrumental music and still be pleasing to God?

Argument- Singing is not replaced by instrumental music it is only enhanced.

Answer- Could Noah have enhanced the ark with redwood paneling? Could Aaron have enhanced the offering with a fatted calf? Can we enhance the Lord's Supper with chip-dip? NO - And neither can we enhance the singing with instrumental music and still be pleasing to God. We will examine more of these arguments (quibbles) in a lesson entitled: Instrumental Music.

- 4) II Jn. 9-11; I Cor. 4:6 - instrumental music is going beyond the things which were written, God has been disobeyed.
- C. The scriptures are all sufficient on this point, just as they are on all aspects of Christian worship and service. (II Pet. 1:2-3; Acts 3:22-23)

II. The Purpose of Singing

- A. Praise and thanksgiving unto God- A purpose brought down from the old law and made part of the new law. See Paul's quote of Ps. 18:49 in Rom. 15:9. Jas. 5:13 - If we are cheerful we have reason to be thankful, so sing! Sing what? Praise!
- B. Teaching and admonishing one another Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16 say that these two things are to be accomplished as part of our singing. Music (singing) is to be used as a teaching tool, for instruction and admonition as well as for praise and thanksgiving unto God.

III. How is the Singing to be Done?

- A. Unto God- not for entertainment, we are singing to please God, not the congregation, not the visitors or the guest preacher. Acts16: 25, Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16 all say that the singing is to be unto God.

- 1) If an act of worship is not directed toward God, then who is it directed to?
 - 2) To try to attract the world to the church by the "beauty" of the singing is unscriptural.
- B. In spirit- 1 Cor. 14:15 says to sing with the spirit, which means with all sincerity or as Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16 put it, "from the heart."
- C. With the understanding- also I Cor. 14:15. Do we know what we are singing? Can we not know and be sincere? Are the songs we are singing scriptural?
- D. So others can understand- To fulfill the commands of Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16 the audience must be able to ascertain the sentiments, ideas and truths in a song.
- E. With Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs- once again Eph. 5:19 and Col.3: 16 - sacred, reverential songs. Some tunes would naturally be inappropriate for a hymn to be sung to. Examples: the National Anthem, Sleepin' Single in a Double Bed, Cocaine Blues, etc.

CONCLUSION

God has authorized and specified singing as the type of music to be used in the worship service for the purpose of praising and thanking him and teaching others. The singing is to be directed to God, sincere, and understandable to all of those singing, whether Christians or visitors in the worship service. Finally, the singing is to be reverential and spiritual in nature, not profane or worldly.