

Music is a Powerful Gift from God

I've always loved to sing going all the way back to when I was a young young lad. We always had the Christian radio playing in the house and in the barn too while we did chores and milked the cows. My parents bought a big stereo radio and record player that sat in our living room. They hooked up some extra speakers for the upstairs and every night at bedtime they stacked about five big vinyl records on the record player, and we listened until each of us drifted off to sleep. We sang along each night with singers like Bev Shea, Tennessee Ernie Ford, J.T. Adams, The Palermos, The Blackwood Singers and a few others that I can't remember. Night after night we continued this routine, and it left me with a love for music that has kept me singing down through the years. When I was in Jr. High School and High School, I sang in different school music concerts and even joined the swing choir my senior year. I think growing up in church gives a person a great appreciation for music and opportunities as well to sing in public. I wanted to do more with music as the years went by, so when I was in college, I bought a guitar and took a few lessons. I thought it would be really nice if I could learn some basic chords and be able to play a simple song or two. I soon realized that if I was going to learn to play it was going to take some effort. I began to work at it and I learned a few choruses that I practiced over and over.

I now have about thirty years of playing and singing under my belt and it has really become an important part of my life. About five years ago my wife started singing with me and this has added a whole new dimension to my love for music. Last Thursday she and I performed our first little concert at a program for seniors in a nearby town. We sang about twenty gospel songs and hymns for about forty or fifty people who gathered to listen and sing along with us. We told a few stories about how God brought us together and has given us a real love for people and a desire to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I think one of the greatest things we can share with others is the hope that we have in Christ. In this day and age, people seem to have lost hope, but believing in Jesus brings us hope like nothing else. Hope of a life filled with joy, hope of eternal life in the presence of God after we die, hope of victory over sin and a million more hopes that give our lives meaning and purpose.

In Titus 2:13 we read that we as Christians are to be looking for our blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. What this means is that Jesus is going to appear in the clouds and call believers to join Him at the throne of God for the wedding supper. This is exciting because Jesus Himself told us this as He ascended into heaven after His resurrection. Here are His words in John 14:3 He says, I go to prepare a place for you and if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there you may be also.

This clearly is not talking about His second coming to the earth. Jesus is telling us of a different event that we should all be looking for with great anticipation and hope. I Thessalonians 4:16-18 tells us more about this event. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

I hope you are encouraged today that our blessed hope will soon take place according to what the Bible has told us those days would look like. The world is fast approaching this time when the church will be taken out and then God will bring judgment upon a sinful population who have rejected Him. Give your heart to Jesus today and become part of the bride of Christ, the church. Until next week, God bless.