

Singing to the Lord

by Robert Notgrass

Singing soothes the soul, some say. But, how does it soothe the soul? Well, singing is the expression of the heart. For a Christian, it is the singing to the Lord for saving our souls. What more do we have that we can sing more glorious about? I have seen Christian individuals rocking and rolling down the streets as they sing out loud to Metallica or Britney Spears about lusting, fornicating with others, getting their next high or attempting to deceive others. But, when was the last time those Christians sang for the glory of God? Or have they ever?

We are to glorify God because He is. We are to glorify Him in our voices, raising our voices high enough to lay them before His throne. But, some believe that they do not need to sing out. That, singing praises quietly so no one will hear you, is acceptable. But, is it possible to love Jesus without singing out of how wonderful he really is? Do we show God our greatest potential in our singing? Now for others, I have seen some sing with so much love toward God, that it makes them cry. But, why is it that some songs have us crying before his throne for the love that we have toward him? Perhaps, it is because we love Him so much. Perhaps it is because we realize how hopeless we are without him. Perhaps, it is because of how joyous living with Him in eternity will be. Perhaps, our thoughts are as Moses' feet when he was told to take off his shoes because he was on holy ground.

You know, the book of Psalm says many things. But, it is vital to consider their works as songs and see

how the writers depended greatly on God, his love, his faithful love for man and his care for us. For that, they sang out with their heart, understanding what God is and the relationship they are to have with Him. This is important because so many either do not know how to have a relationship with God or have never had one. It is therefore saddening to consider that some Christians have hardened their hearts enough that they have become calloused toward singing out with their heart, not embracing the Christ who died for them.

It amazing me how much God loves our voices. God created them and designed them with such a vast range of notes to use. So let's use them! Let us sing out in worship. Let us sing out to Him as we drive down the road and allow Him to fill us with unspeakable amounts of joy as we live faithfully before Him, as we walk closely next to Him toward the end of this life and into Paradise wherewith we shall be one day in Heaven with the gentle Shepherd who has helped us to find out way. Let us all sing to the Lord.

God's Great Bubble of Protection

by Kevin Cauley

Have you ever thought how amazing it is that the Earth seems to be perfectly situated as a habitat for man? Man needs water to survive, and the Earth has a hydrology system that cleans and purifies water on a regular and consistent basis. Man also needs food, and in every part of the Earth plants grow that provide a stable and consistent food source for man. The same ecosystem provides materials that mankind uses to build shelter against the Earth's natural elements of wind, rain, cold, and heat. Man breathes oxygen, and once again we have just the right balance due to the consumption of carbon dioxide and production of oxygen by plants. Indeed, the Earth is well suited for the existence of man, as Paul writes in Acts 17:25-26, "he gives to all life, and breath, and all things; and has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the Earth, and has determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation." Scientists refer to this phenomenon as the Anthropic Principle, and find more and more evidence each year of a unique providence for mankind. Let's look at some of these layers and see the manifold protections they offer.

One such area of providence occurs within the layers of protection that surround the Earth. The Earth's atmosphere acts as a shield against all sorts of things that might harm humans. It filters out deadly radiation, while at the same time allowing life-giving sunlight to pass through. It burns up thousands of small meteorites that would otherwise bombard us on a regular basis. It regulates Earth's temperature by preventing rapid heat loss or gain. It dissipates and decomposes harmful gases and particulates that might interfere with normal breathing. It also circulates air from warmer to cooler climates, maintaining a relatively moderate temperature on the surface of the Earth.

The Earth also has an electromagnetic shield known as the magnetosphere. This shield is generated as the liquid part of the Earth's core revolves around the solid part of the core, thereby forming a giant electromagnetic generator. This shield is 10-20 times the size of the Earth, and is constantly surrounding us. The magnetosphere provides tremendous protection from the forces of the Sun as they are hurled toward Earth at (literally) astronomic speeds. When the solar wind collides with Earth's magnetosphere, a

shock wave is formed. This wave diverts magnetized plasma that, if not diverted, would bathe the Earth in radioactive particles that would be harmful almost all life on the planet. But the magnetosphere does more than just protect Earth against shock waves. Two additional layers of the magnetosphere, known as the Van Allen Belts, provide additional protection from those particles that get through the magnetosphere. The Van Allen Belts act as a sort of particle vacuum cleaner, sucking up these stray particles into its magnetic field, thus providing the Earth with additional protection from harmful rays.

Most recently, however, scientists have discovered another bubble of protection. This bubble is known as the heliosphere. This is the bubble that is created by the Sun's solar wind. It extends around the solar system. (It is about four times the size of the orbit of the planet Neptune.) The heliosphere also has an edge (known as the heliosheath) where the solar wind stops. The heliosheath is important to mankind because it protects the Earth from galactic cosmic rays. These rays are produced by supernovas and black holes, and travel near the speed of light. They are dangerous because they can alter man's DNA. As the first line of defense, the heliosheath deflects such particles from even entering our solar system at all.

The heliosheath, the magnetosphere, and our atmosphere are all bubbles of protection from the many harmful forces that exist within our Universe. Without these layers of protection, mankind could not exist. Do such layers of protection exhibit intelligence and design that is beyond that for which mere material substance can account? Indeed they do! We can conclude that such protection is evidence of an intelligent Designer, and that such providence demonstrates a care and concern for mankind that is beyond that which is purely materialistic in nature. Praise God for His wonderful bubbles of protection!

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Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
House to House, Heart to Heart
In Search of the Lord's Way
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin
New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

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Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Lois Moore, Ricky Jennings' sister, passed away Wednesday night. Please, keep the Jennings and Moore families in your prayers.

Continue to Remember: James Ainsworth, Gayle Garner, Velma McDougald, Bud Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Patty Williams, Meagan Gould

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

drinks will be provided. If you would like to bring something, chips and desserts are always welcome. Bring a lawn chair and bug spray for your comfort. A bounce house will be available for the kids.

Important Dates:

- Youth Mission Trip - July 16-20
- Boys' Leadership Initiative - July 29-31
- Summer Youth Series (Here!) - August 2

Birthdays This Week

- July 4 - JoAnn Chambers
- July 5 - Beverly Cooke, Harrison Sloan
- July 6 - Avery Dunnahoe, Peyton Jennings

Next Week's Adult Class

The Rich Young Ruler
(Mat. 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30)

Announcements

"**Westhill Family**, your cards, visits, and calls made my "shut-in" time much easier. Thank you. Your prayers on my behalf were answered. Now, I can enjoy worshipping with you again." With Christian Love, Barbara Shore

"**Gayle & I would like to thank all** for all the prayers, the lovely cards, the food, and all the phone calls you made during my back problems. Also, July 3 [today] is our 69th anniversary. If we are able we will be with all our family." In Christian Love, Gayle & Christine Garner

Registration is Now Open Online for the Boys' Leadership Initiative. Please, register. All of the information is available online with the form.

Summer Youth Series this Tuesday hosted by the Keller congregation. We will leave at 5:00 PM.

Vacation Bible School is coming up July 11-13. The theme is Cast Away and will delve into the life of Peter. If you'd like to help, see Justin Williams. **Registration** is available online now.

We Need Cookies for VBS. Sign up sheet is at the back of the auditorium. Please, indicate how many you'll be bringing.

There are still a few spots available for our yearly ladies retreat at Summers Mill in Belton. The dates are September 23-24. Cost for the room and meals is \$65, and the t-shirt (optional, but always cute) will be \$12. See Lanette Stewart, Vicki Ivy, Lee Owens or Julie Dilbeck to sign up.

Annual Fourth of July Celebration hosted by the Roughton family tomorrow at 7:30 PM at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home. Hot dogs, trimmings and

Records for June 26, 2016

Bible Class	171
AM Worship.....	255
PM Worship.....	135
Wednesday	184
Contribution	\$8,266.77

Privileged to Serve

Song Leader	Zach Drain
Opening Prayer	Scott Barham
Communion Leader	Paul Stewart
Communion Servers	
Tim Cooke	Millard Dowdle
Jim Haden	Nick Hoffman
James Horn	Clay Jackson
Eric Olsen	Greg Olsen
Brody Owens	Larry Rowden
Dalton Shastid	Justin Williams
Closing Prayer	Ken Green
Nursery	Lee Owens & Dayanara Sosa
Security	Mike Drain, Zach Drain, Billy Roughton
PM Song Leader	Joshua Haden
PM Opening Prayer	Dalton Shastid
PM Closing Prayer	Bryan Bearden
Wed. Song Leader	Jimmy Horn
Wed. Summer Series Speaker	David Mahoney
July Contact Elder	Percell Milton - 903.673.1819