

Fundamentals Of The Church

Singing In Worship

(Ja 5:13)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons "Fundamentals Of The Church"
 - a. We are looking at the acts of worship now...
 - i. Finished up our lessons on prayer.
 1. Why do we Pray?
 2. How do we Pray?
 - b. We will begin this morning by looking now at "Singing In Worship"
3. Singing As Worship
 - a. There is no doubt to this act of worship as well. We see it plainly authorized.
 - i. **Ep 5:18-20** "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"
 - ii. **Co 3:16-17** "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."
4. So let us examine this most wonderful act of worship that God has authorized for your use.

I. Historicity Of Music

- A. It's beginning
 1. Jubal the father of all the lyre & pipe players.
 - i. **Gn 4:21** "His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute."
 - a. Jubal is the eighth generation from the beginning.
 - ii. Though this does not mention singing it is the first account of music.
 2. They were not like the harmonies we have today.
 - i. They more resembled a poetic chants. ((Myers, A. C. (1987). The Eerdmans Bible dictionary (736). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans.)
 - ii. One of the earliest mentions of singing is...
 - a. **Gn 31:27** "Why did you flee away secretly, and steal away from me, and not tell me; for I might have sent you away with joy and songs, with timbrel and harp?"
 - b. Counting here forward it's found 77 times in 75 verses.
 1. The Hebrew word "שִׁיר" or "syr"
 - c. There are at least 5 other Hebrew words for "song" in the O.T.
- B. It's usage in the Bible
 1. It was very common and used in many daily activities such as...
 - i. Homecomings
 - a. **Jg 11:34** "When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she was his only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter."

- ii. Digging wells
 - a. **Nu 21:17-18** "Then Israel sang this song: "Spring up, O well! All of you sing to it— 18 The well the leaders sank, Dug by the nation's nobles, By the lawgiver, with their staves." And from the wilderness they went to Mattanah"
 - iii. Grape trampling
 - a. **Je 48:33** "Joy and gladness are taken From the plentiful field And from the land of Moab; I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses; No one will tread with joyous shouting— Not joyous shouting!"
 - 2. It was commonly found in important human events such as...
 - i. Being victorious over ones enemies.
 - a. **Ex 15:20-21** "Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. 21 And Miriam answered them: "Sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!""
 - ii. Soothing Crazy People
 - a. **I Sa 18:10** "And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand."
 - iii. Funerals
 - a. **II Ch 35:25** "Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah. And to this day all the singing men and the singing women speak of Josiah in their lamentations. They made it a custom in Israel; and indeed they are written in the Laments."
 - iv. The anointing of a king
 - a. **I Ki 1:34** "There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!'"
- C. The Israelites (it seems) had more music in their worship than the Patriarchs.
 - 1. This is most likely due to us not having much in the way of law for the Patriarchs. We have no detailed Patriarchal Law.
 - i. We do have a detailed account of the Law of Moses however.
 - 2. We do not find the mechanical instrument becoming a part of the worship service very much until the days of king David.
 - i. We do find it a part of the Law of Moses before King David came.
 - a. **Nu 10:10** "Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God."
 - ii. From David on we see the mechanical instrument becoming an intricate part of the worship services.
 - a. **I Ch 25**

- D. It is one of only two forms of "art" the Hebrews made.
 - 1. They made poetry
 - 2. They made music
 - i. They did not paint and only rarely were sculptures made.
(<http://www.internationalstandardbible.com/M/music.html>)

[Music has meant a great deal to the Israelites both in daily life and worship.]

II. Singing While Assembled For Worship With The Saints

- A. Since singing is worship we must follow the guidelines of worship.
 - 1. Proper worship is done in spirit and truth
 - i. **Jn 4:24** "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- B. Singing in spirit while assembled.
 - 1. This is an attitude to sing spiritually ie righteously.
 - i. Worshiping in spirit is "the biblical emotional resolve in following truth." (http://www.gospel-preacher.com/uploads/Worship_1.pdf)
 - 2. Thus when we sing or make melody in our heart in psalm, hymn, or spiritual song we must do so with an emotional resolve to follow truth.
 - 3. How does that translate to us today?
 - i. When we sing in the assembly we must make sure we are singing with the understanding ie emotionally resolved to follow truth.
 - a. **I Co 14:15b** "What is the conclusion then...I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the **understanding**."
 - b. **I Co 14:15b** "What am I to do...I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with **my mind** also." (ESV)
 - ii. This means we grasp what we are singing.
 - a. The Great Physician
 - 1. "Sweetest note in seraph song"
 - 2. "The word, "seraph" is an abbreviated term for seraphim, a word describing angels of high rank (Isaiah 6:2, 6). Thus the name of Jesus is the most precious name even the highest angels can sing."
(<http://preachersfiles.com/singing-with-the-understanding/>)
 - b. Mansion Over The Hilltop
 - 1. "And, like the prophet, my pillow a stone"
 - 2. "This "prophet" was actually Jacob, who, when fleeing from the wrath of his twin brother, Esau, pillowed his head on a stone at Luz/Bethel, on his way to another land (Genesis 28:10-19). The point of mentioning Jacob's stone pillow in the song is to remind us that the discomforts of this life should not matter because we are here only a short while before we arrive at our permanent dwelling of comfort and rest." (Ibid)

- c. Wonderful Love Of Jesus
 - 1. "In vain in high and holy lays"
 - 2. "What is meant by the "lays" we raise to the wonderful love of Jesus? The word "lay" is an archaic term for "song", thus, this hymn speaks of our feeble attempts to praise adequately and worthily the Christ in spiritual songs." (Ibid)
 - 4. We must worship in song in spirit.
- C. Singing in truth while assembled.
 - 1. This is singing according to the divine pattern found in the Word of God.
 - 2. How is this pattern then manifested in scripture.
 - i. **Ep 5:18-20** "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"
 - a. **Co 3:16-17** "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. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
 - ii. We must be "filled with the Spirit/letting the Word dwell in us with all wisdom"
 - a. We must be striving for righteousness.
 - 1. **Ga 5:22-25** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."
 - iii. We must be "speaking/teaching and admonishing one another"
 - a. That means we have to communicate in song to each other.
 - 1. This cannot be done in silence.
 - 2. Others must be able to hear us.
 - i. Even the mute must be heard "visually."
 - b. I see too many that sit or stand and never open their mouths in every congregation and this one is not immune from it either.
 - 1. Brothers and sisters "speak to one another" in singing.
 - 2. How can others learn or be admonished (convicted to repent) if we do not speak up?
 - i. **I Co 14:24-25**
 - 3. Many have obeyed the gospel not only because of the sermon but because of the invitation song that convicted their heart to obey the gospel.
 - i. What if everyone opened up not their mouths?

- iv. We must sing "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs."
 - a. Psalms: " a set piece of music, i.e. a sacred ode...[from] the book of the Psalms" (Strong, J., S.T.D., LL.D. (2009). Vol. 1: A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible (78). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.)
 - b. Hymns: "denotes "a song of praise addressed to God"" (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (316). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
 - c. Spiritual Song: "'an ode, song," is always used in the NT (as in the Sept.), in praise of God or Christ; in Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16 the adjective "spiritual" is added, because the word in itself is generic and might be used of songs anything but spiritual" (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (586–587). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
- v. We must "sing with grace and make melody in our hearts"
 - a. Singing: "to utter words in a melodic pattern" (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament : Based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (400). New York: United Bible societies.)
 - 1. Grace: "is talking about thankfulness ie graciousness."
 - 2. Thus we need to singing with an attitude of thankfulness.
 - b. Make melody: "...to pull, twitch, twang, play, sing" (Thomas, R. L. (1998). New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.)
 - 1. This word "psallo" is used in the N.T. as...
 - i. Sing - **Ro 15:9**
 - ii. Sing - **I Co 14:15**
 - iii. Make melody - **Ep 5:19**
 - iv. Sing - **Ja 5:13**
 - c. The idea here is that we are to sing out with thankfulness and sing out with our heart. To please God we must do both at the same time. We cannot leave one out or the other and please Him.
- vi. We must sing "to the Lord"
 - a. Here we see that there is nothing wrong with worshiping Jesus in song.
 - 1. There is nothing wrong with worshiping God the Father or God the Spirit either in song.
 - i. **Ps 48:1** "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised In the city of our God, In His holy mountain."
 - b. Thus the idea here is we are to sing to the Godhead.

III. Singing While Privately Worshiping God

- A. Singing in private is almost exactly like singing in the assembly
 - 1. We must sing in spirit and truth when we sing/worship the Godhead.
 - i. Thus we are guided by the same principles as above for the most part.
- B. Singing in private has one and only one difference that I can find
 - 1. When we sing we don't have to sing out to someone else.
 - i. **Ja 5:13** "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms."
 - ii. We see examples of this in scripture.
 - a. Mary sang in joy about being the Saviors mother.
 - 1. **Mt 1:46-55**
 - b. Miriam sang for joy because of Egypt's defeat.
 - 1. **Ex 15:21**
 - iii. Our private singing can be for others to hear and learn from.
 - a. **Ac 16:25** "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them."
- C. With only one difference we must make sure we are singing to please God rather than ourselves.
 - 1. We cannot...
 - i. Make melody in our hearts without singing out loud.
 - ii. Sing psalms, hymns, or spiritual songs with the mechanical instrument.
 - a. Thus we cannot listen to it for entertainment.
 - 2. We can...
 - i. Make sure we are doing everything we are supposed to do when we sing and thus worship.
 - a. Let it not be said we were worshiping in...
 - 1. Ignorance - **Ac 17:22-23**
 - 2. Vain - **Mt 15:18-29**
 - 3. Self righteousness - **Co 2:23**

CONCLUSION

- 1. Worshiping God in song is a great joy that every Christian should have in their lives.
 - a. **Ps 98:1** "Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory."
- 2. Question to contemplate
 - a. Do I sing in the spirit and truth every time I sing a song, hymn, or spiritual song?
- 3. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study God's Word **Ro 10:17**
 - ii. Believe In Jesus As The Christ **Jn 3:16**
 - iii. Repent And Give Your Life To Christ **Ac 17:30**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord & Savior **Mt 10:32**
 - v. Be Immersed In Water For The Forgiveness Of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16**
 - iv. Live A Faithful Life Walking In The Light **I Jn 1:7**