

Acceptable Worship

Singing (Ps 95:1-2)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
 2. Series of lessons on “Acceptable Worship.”
 - a. Last week we looked at what makes for acceptable “Prayer.”
 - i. **Lk 11:5-8** “And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, 6 for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to look at what makes acceptable “Singing” in worship.
 - i. **Ep 5:17-21** “Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”
 3. History has been unkind on this topic.
 - a. The church has found itself having to defend truth on this subject for far too many years.
 - i. Naturally I’m talking about the mechanical instrument debate.
 - b. This, of course, is the reason why so many sermons, books, and articles have been written and given on this subject.
 - i. It can be thoroughly proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that the mechanical instrument’s use in worship is forbidden by God and a heresy that will keep one from heaven.
 4. Because that is the case today I want to look at this subject, not from the side of defending what acceptable singing “is not,” but what “it is.”
 - a. So with that in mind let us now start examining some things we can hold to should be applied to our worship.
 5. Acceptable singing is...
- I. **...Singing With The Mind**
- A. Paul wrote...
 1. **I Co 14:15** “What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.”
 - i. **I Co 14:15** “...I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.” (NKJV)

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- B. Acceptable singing is “understanding what you sing”
1. This means having the right vocabulary.
 - i. In other words knowing the meaning of the words in the songs.
 - a. This is the song leader’s responsibility to make sure the “uncommon” words that are sometimes used are known.
 - b. This is the individuals responsibility to make sure they “learn” the uncommon words that are in some songs.
 - ii. Vocabulary changes, words become archaic, and words change definition.
 - a. The definition of a word can change meaning over time.
 2. This means having the right conclusion.
 - i. The right conclusion is knowing what the song is talking about.
 - a. This is the responsibility of the individual.
 1. Obviously the song leader must know what the song is talking about.
 - i. Only if the song is knew should there be any real need for explanation from the song leader concerning the message of the song.
 2. If we don’t understand the meaning of the song it is up to us to study it.
 - ii. The right conclusion is being aware of problem areas, any unscriptural area, within a song.
 - a. Not every song is scriptural.
 1. Some are completely false and if song it will make us false teachers so they are not to be sung.
 - i. These are those that teach false doctrine such as on Premillennialism.
 2. Some are only partly false.
 - i. These have one verse or so that teaches false doctrine and if that verse is left out it will not affect the song and it will all the song to be sung scripturally.
 3. Some are only partially false.
 - i. These have one word or phrase in a verse that is false and if the word is changed or the phrase is adapted to be proper then the song can be sung scripturally.
 - C. Thus...
 1. If we want our singing to be acceptable to God we need to make sure with sing with our mind.

II. ...Making A Joyful Noise

- A. The psalmist wrote...
1. **Ps 95:1-2** “Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”
 - i. “...Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.” (NKJV)

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- B. Acceptable singing is “shouting joyfully”
1. This means singing out with excitement because...
 - i. Jehovah is great, King above all and creator of everything!!!
 - a. **Ps 95:3-5** “For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. 5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.”
 - ii. Therefore we shout for joy because God is God when we sing.
 2. This means singing out with your voice because...
 - i. We are addressing each other with the purpose of teaching and admonishing.
 - a. **Ep 5:19** “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart”
 - b. **Co 3:16** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
 - ii. Therefore we shout for joy because we “imparting our knowledge” and “counseling each other’s behavior” when we sing.
- C. Thus...
1. If people and God need to hear you “shout” for joy to the LORD!!!

CONCLUSION

1. I’m reminded of what was told to Israel by the God whom we come to worship today.”
 - a. **Zp 3:14** “Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!”
2. Question: Are you, in your worship with song, singing/shouting aloud your joy for Him who is your King and addressing others concerning the Almighty and His teachings?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**