

SINGING IN WORSHIP

Eph. 5: 18 - 19; Col. 3:16

By Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. God has given us the privilege of praising Him in song.
2. One of the great needs in the church today is for every member to get a song book and follow the song leader and sing to the best of his ability.
3. Someone has said, "Let me write the songs of a nation, and I care not who writes its laws."
 - (1) No one who has ever sung our national anthem will deny that there is power in singing.
 - (2) There is nothing better to bind a group together than singing.
 - (3) Without a doubt, there is a power in singing.

I. POWER OF RELIGIOUS SINGING

1. Take the power inherent in singing and couple it with the force of the religion of Christ and you have a powerful combination.
2. Men are moved by the songs they sing.
 - (1) The soldiers sing as they march.
 - (2) Oppressed people sing (Example - The Black people of this country.)
 - (3) Men sing as they work
3. But, when the words of songs are spiritual, and turned toward heaven, that is the real power to move men.
4. Think HOW many lives have been influenced for a lifetime by singing in childhood such songs as:
 - (1) *Jesus Love Me*
 - (2) *There's A Great Day Coming*
 - (3) *The Old Rugged Cross*
 - (4) *An Empty Mansion*
 - (5) *There Is A Fountain*
5. There is great power in singing to TEACH SINNERS what they must do to obey and please God.
 - (1) We Sing:
 1. *Just As I Am*
 2. *I Am Resolved*
 3. *O Why Not Tonight?*
6. There is great power in singing to INSPIRE WEAK MEMBERS
 - (1) We Sing:
 1. *Higher Ground*
 2. *Does Jesus Care?*
 3. *Standing On The Promises*

II. THE KIND OF SONGS WE ARE TO SING IN WORSHIP

1. Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19
2. "*Psalms*" and "*Hymns*" appear to have been used interchangeably -- BOTH are songs of praise to God.
3. *Spiritual Songs* are songs intended to inspire and cultivate feelings of spiritual devotion, and bring the spirit of man into harmony with and under the control of the Spirit of God.

III. THE PURPOSE OF SINGING

1. **COMMANDED** by God -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
2. **PRAISE** and **THANKSGIVING** unto God -- Acts 16:25; Heb. 13:15; James 5:13; Eph. 5:19

(1) SONGS OF PRAISE

1. *How Great Thou Art*
2. *Our God, He is Alive*
3. *He Is Able To Deliver Thee*

3. **TEACHING** and **ADMONISHING** one another -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16

(1) Our singing is to **INSTRUCT** and **COMMUNICATE** ideas from one to another

1. The words are the most important part of the song
- (2) Most of our singing is this kind of singing.

IV. THE MANNER OF RENDERING OUR WORSHIP IN SONG

1. **UNTO GOD** -- Acts 16:25; Eph. 5:19

- (1) Singing is **DIRECTED UNTO GOD**, and is not for simple entertainment
- (2) When Singing becomes an effort to entertain men, it becomes a stench in the nostrils of God.
- (3) When any act of worship is NOT directed to GOD, it misses its mark and is vain.
- (4) It is wrong to attempt to attract the world by the singing of the church.

2. We are to "*Make melody in the heart*" -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; James 5:13

- (1) From this we learn that **OUR HEARTS** must accompany our singing and be in accord with the sentiment of the song being sung.
- (2) Worship in song must be "*in spirit*" -- John 4:24

3. "*With the understanding*" -- I Cor. 14: 15, 19; Eph. 5:19

4. So as to be **UNDERSTOOD** -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16

- (1) We must teach others in our singing.
- (2) This cannot be done if the words cannot be understood.

5. Everyone is to sing -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16

CONCLUSION

1. The command to sing is specific and excludes all other kinds of music.
2. When something more is done than singing, God has been disobeyed -- II John 9 - 11