

True Worship Singing

Introduction

- A. In past lessons, we have noted the various types of worship
 - 1. **VAIN** worship - **Matthew 15:8-9**
 - 2. **IGNORANT** worship - **Acts 17:22-23**
 - 3. **WILL** worship - **Colossians 2:20-23**
 - 4. **TRUE** worship - **John 4:23-24**
- B. We then considered what was involved in "True" worship, what Jesus meant when He said "worship in spirit and truth"
- C. In this lesson, we shall consider the music God wants in the worship of the church

I. The Music in True Worship

- A. The only music commanded in the New Testament was vocal
 - 1. The example of Jesus and His disciples - **Matthew 26:30 - Mark 14:26** - They "sung a hymn"
 - 2. The example of Paul and Silas - **Acts 16:25** - "Singing hymns"
 - 3. Other references to singing
 - a. **Romans 15:9** - "Sing to Your name"
 - b. **1 Corinthians 14:15** - "I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding"
 - c. **Ephesians 5:19** - "Singing and making melody in your heart"
 - d. **Colossians 3:16** - "Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"
 - e. **Hebrews 2:12** - "I will sing praise to You"
 - f. **James 5:13** - "Let him sing psalms"
 - 4. The logical conclusion from the reading of the passages can only be that the music was always vocal
- B. The music in the New Testament emphasized the "Spiritual"…
 - 1. **Ephesians 5:19**
 - a. "Making melody"
 - b. But notice that now (in the NT) the "making melody" is to be done "in the heart", not with mechanical instruments!
 - c. Notice the contrast: The heart (SPIRITUAL) vs. Mechanical instruments (PHYSICAL)
 - d. Since this music is to be offered "to the Lord"; we had better regard Him as Holy and offer exactly what He specified
 - 2. **Colossians 3:16** - "singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"
 - a. This passage is parallel to **Ephesians 5:19**
 - b. Notice again that the emphasis is SPIRITUAL: "in your hearts to the Lord"
- C. Review the contrast between Old Testament music and New Testament music
 - 1. Old Testament music
 - a. Performed by a professional choir
 - b. Accompanied with various mechanical instruments
 - c. EMPHASIS: How it sounds to the human ear (appealing to the PHYSICAL side of man)

2. New Testament music

- a. Sung by all in the congregation ("speaking to one another in psalms...")
- b. The melody to be made in the HEART, not on the HARP
- c. EMPHASIS: How it affects the soul (the SPIRITUAL side of man)

II. What is the Purpose of Our Singing in the Worship

A. Teaching

The Church's One Foundation

"The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is His new creation by water and the word;
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.
Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses with every grace endued."

B. Admonition & Exhortation

Take Time to Be Holy

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His word;
Make friends of God's children; help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing His blessings to seek.
Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone;
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see."

Work for the Night is Coming

"Work for the night is coming,
Work through the morning hours;
Work while the dew is sparkling,
Work 'mid springing flowers.
Work when the day grows brighter,
Work in the glowing sun;
Work, for the night is coming,
When man's work is done"

Come Sinner Come

While Jesus whispers to you ...
While we are praying for you ...
Now is the time to own Him ...
Now is the time to know Him,
Come sinner, come!

C. Praise, Adoration, and Thanksgiving

Holy, Holy, Holy

“Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our songs shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
Holy, holy, holy! Tho’ the darkness hide Thee,
Tho’ the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; There is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.”

Fairest Lord Jesus

“Fairest Lord Jesus! Ruler of all nature!
O Thou of God and man the Son!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.”

D. Personal Dedication

Have Thine Own Way

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

I am Thine, O Lord

“I am Thine, O Lord; I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me,
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.
Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.”

E. Petitions to God and Christ

Be With Me Lord

“Be with me Lord--I cannot live without Thee,
I dare not try to take one step alone,
I cannot bear the loads of life unaided,
I need Thy strength to lean myself upon.
Be with me, Lord, when loneliness o’ertakes me,
When I must weep amid the fires of pain,
And when shall come the hour of my departure
For worlds unknown, O Lord, be with me then.”

F. These qualities deal with the Spirit side of True Worship

III. How Are We to Sing

A. Directed to God....and not to man

1. **Acts 16:25**

2. **Romans 15:9**

3. **Ephesians 5:19**

4. **Colossians 3:16**

5. While it is good to have singing that is beautiful to the ear, we must remember that we should be concerned about pleasing God and not men

B. We are to worship according to the dictates of the God

1. **John 4:24**

2. **2 John 9-11**

C. Our singing must come from the heart

1. **1 Corinthians 14:15**

2. **Ephesians 5:19**

3. There is a proper role for emotions in singing

D. With the understanding

1. **1 Corinthians 14:15**

2. This is one reason why such things as humming, handclapping, and making vocal sounds like instruments of music is wrong

3. This also means that we need to understand the songs which we are singing

a. Knowing the meaning of the words

b. Singing songs that teach truth

c. Proper songs for the occasion

1) Ready to Suffer does not seem appropriate before the sermon

2) Break Thou the Bread of Life before the Lord's Supper

3) Are You Coming to Jesus Tonight as a morning invitation song

E. These qualities deal with the truth side of True worship

Conclusion

A. Let us all come to have a deeper appreciation of the hymns that we sing in Worship

B. Remember that every Christian is commanded to sing

1. He must enter into this part of the worship even though he is not a skilled or expert musician

2. There are great blessings to be had in singing, which none of us must permit himself to miss

C. Singing is one of God's ways of lifting us to a higher plane of devotion

D. Let us pray and let us work that our worship in song may be a blessing to us and an acceptable offering to our Father in heaven