

WORSHIPPING GOD IN SONG

INTRODUCTION:

- A. I like to sing. I like the sound of good four-part harmony. (Coke add "I'd like to teach the world to sing") So I have to be careful that I don't sing just purely for my own enjoyment. No I don't think it is wrong to enjoy singing, in fact we ought to enjoy singing praises to God.
- B. "Four-part harmony" like the arrangement of the songs in our song book certainly is not essential for worshipping God in song. However, it is evident there was some kind of arrangement for playing instruments of music as far back as David and probably farther.
- C. What we must understand is that all acceptable worship in whatever form must meet two conditions: it must be in spirit and in truth. Jhn 4:24 (with the right disposition and according to Truth)

REASONS FOR SINGING:

- A. We sing because God authorized singing as an act of worship Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Matt 26:30; Mk 14:26; Acts 16:25
- B. We sing to praise God - human's praise of God is one of scriptures major themes Heb 2:12; 13:15; 1Pet 4:11
 - 1. "Praise" from a Latin word meaning "value" or "price"; therefore praising God proclaims His merit or worth
 - 2. Hallelujah transliteration of Hebrew "praise the Lord"
 - 3. Praise by Sacrifice Heb 13:15; Col 3:16 "grace in your hearts" = expressing appreciation, that is, praising God
- C. We sing to edify one another Col 3:16 The words of the songs are designed not only to praise God, but to teach and admonish one another. This is another reason why everyone should sing

HOW WE SING

- A. Do not have to know music and sing in perfect four part harmony.
- B. Sing with "melody in our hearts" Eph 5:19
 - 1. "Melody" from Greek "Psallo" means to twitch, twang, play a stringed instrument with the fingers, in Sept., to sing with a harp, sing psalms, denotes in the N. T., to sing a hymn, sing praise; (Vines)
 - 2. From this word instrumental music is defended, but remember the passage tells what is to be plucked or twanged. The "heart strings" are to be tugged

- 3. Our singing must touch our heart (mind) Col 3:16 says "singing with grace in your hearts."
- C. Must sing with spirit and understanding 1Cor 14:15
 - 1. Singing with "spirit" involves (Vines) (f) the sentient (experiencing sensation and feeling) element in man, by which he perceives, reflects, feels, desires
 - 2. "Spirit" in passage dealing with that part of the mind that controls our feelings or emotions
 - 3. "Understanding" - also translated "mind" and means the seat of reflective consciousness, comprising the faculties of perception and understanding, (a) the faculty of knowing, the seat of the understanding
 - 4. Involves a different part of the mind in each instance. This involves rationality and our feelings (emotions)
 - 5. "Understanding" suggest we know meaning of words we sing, but one not knowing exact meaning of a word in a song, does not necessarily mean it would be wrong to sing that song, if they understood general meaning behind the words of song.

SCRIPTURE READING AND SONG SERVICE: (about worshipping God in song)

Conclusion and invitation:

- A. Singing is no more and no less important than any other act of worship. Sometime we use more time in a public discourse (preaching) than singing and sometimes more in singing than preaching
- B. Does that mean preaching is more important than singing or singing than preaching? Certainly not!
- C. We actually spend less time in Lord's Supper than any other act of worship except contribution. Does that mean it is of less importance? Absolutely not!
- D. We must understand that all acts of worship are of equal importance
- E. Actually, singing fulfills a "double" role in our worship periods: teaching and admonishing one another as well as expressing our adoration for and praise to God
- F. When we sing scriptural songs, are you and am I worshipping God in spirit and in truth?