

Reference: VARIOUS

Church: GRACE

Date: 01/23/00

## Public Worship - Singing

Purpose: To show the place of singing in public worship and the manner of singing that is appropriate

### 1. Introduction

Continuing series on worship

What have we seen so far?

What is worship?

What place do the 10 commandments have?

What important principle did we see next?

Then looked at preaching

What did we look at last week?

Was prayer a part of the life of the early church?

What kind of prayer? What content?

This week - singing

### 2. Shall we sing?

Much evidence of place of song in OT worship

Psalms were hymns of praise but other songs were used

e.g. Moses, Deborah & Barak

#### 2.1. Commands to sing

Ephesians 5:18-19 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

#### 2.2. Examples of singing

Matthew 26:29-30 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." 30 **After singing a hymn**, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Acts 16:25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

The worship of God in Heaven (revelation) clearly contains singing.

Shall we not sing now, given that we will later?

### 3. What shall we sing?

#### 3.1. Shall we sing only Psalms?

2 passages indicate a variety of material was used:

Ephesians 5:18-19 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Words used are "psalms" (psalm), "hymnos" (hymn) and "ode" (song)

##### 3.1.1. Psalms

- 1) a striking, twanging
  - 1a) of a striking the chords of a musical instrument
  - 1b) of a pious song, a psalm

##### 3.1.2. Hymnos

- 1) a song in tithe praise of gods, heroes, conquerors
  - 2) a sacred song, hymn – related to celebration

##### 3.1.3. Ode

- 1) a song, lay, ode
 

Ode is the generic term; psalmos and humnos are specific, the former designating a song which took its general character from the OT Psalms, although not restricted to them, the latter a song of praise. While the leading idea of psalmos is a musical accompaniment, and that of humnos praise to God, ode is the general word for a song, whether accompanied or not, whether of praise or on any other subject. Thus it is quite possible for the same song to be at once described by all three of these words.

Here, "Spiritual odes"

Seems strongly to imply different categories of songs to be used in the church.

### 3.2. **How shall we sing adequately of Christ given revelation as it was when Psalms were written?**

### 3.3. **Sing a new song**

No less than 6 psalms contain the injunction to sing a new song  
This concept is then repeated in Isaiah  
It is actually done twice in Revelation (see later)  
How could this be consistent with only singing psalms?

### 3.4. **Examples of new songs in the NT**

There are many passages in NT which are probably extracts of songs used in the church

Ephesians 5:13-14

13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

14 For this reason it says,

“Awake, sleeper,  
And arise from the dead,  
And Christ will shine on you.”

Philippians 2:5-11 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Timothy 3:16

16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:

He who was revealed in the flesh,  
Was vindicated in the Spirit,  
Seen by angels,  
Proclaimed among the nations,  
Believed on in the world,  
Taken up in glory.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

11 It is a trustworthy statement:

For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him;

If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

Revelation 5:7-10 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they \*sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

Revelation 14:2-3 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps. 3 And they \*sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.

Revelation 15:3-4

3 And they \*sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and marvelous are Your works,  
O Lord God, the Almighty;  
Righteous and true are Your ways,  
King of the nations!

4 “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?

For You alone are holy;

For all the nations will come and worship before You,

For Your righteous acts have been revealed.”

## 4. **How shall we sing?**

Cheerfully (at least some of the time!)

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

Thankfully

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

John Wesley’s “Rules for Methodist Singers”:

1. *Learn the Tunes*
2. *Sing them as printed*
3. *Sing all. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find it a blessing*
4. *Sing lustily and with a good courage*
5. *Sing modestly. Do not bawl*
6. *Sing in time. Do not run before or stay behind*

7. *Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself or any other creature. In order to do this, attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually.*

Also remember our principles:

Awe, reverence, respect, fear, honor

God the sole focus

Reflecting His character

People should know something about our God by watching us sing

Are we animated or not?

Are we joyful or not

People notice when the singing is done with heart

What will people conclude about God if we drone?

## **5. How is Singing worship?**

Ascribing to God His worth

Praising, honoring Him for who He is

## **6. Conclusions**

Praise God for the gift of singing!

Let us seek to sing to Him from the heart

Let's be a congregation where visitors say

“See how they love their God!”

“There is life and power and joy here!”