



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No.15, April 14 , 2015 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

THE BIBLE is filled with Songs/Praise/Music— WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Have you considered this: MUSIC/SONGS/PRAISE unto GOD started **before Adam and Eve!** In Genesis, as the story of creation is unveiled, God simply proclaimed again and again, *"It is good!"* HOWEVER, in Job, chapters 38 through 42, God asks Job about forty questions! In Job 38:4, 7— GOD asks Job, *"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ... when the morning stars sang together, and ALL the sons of God shouted for JOY?"*

All the angels responded to God's grand creative acts with SINGING AND SHOUTING FOR JOY! Moreover, Job 38:7 is in the context of a time prior to Lucifer's rebellion. The universe was still united in perfect harmony. There was not one dissenting voice! THUS, LUCIFER and all other angelic beings *SANG AND SHOUTED FOR JOY* when God set in motion the laying of the earth's foundation! **In addition, as to singing/praise to GOD, the Revelation** especially rolls back the curtains of heaven so that we witness angelic beings continuously resounding with grand music of praise to God Almighty and to The Lamb! (The last book of the Bible is a glorious book with about 14 songs said and/or sung!) **When Jesus was born in Bethlehem**, *"a multitude of the heavenly hosts"* were praising

God! **When Isaiah saw the LORD** in a vision of the Throne Room of the Universe, the seraphim were crying out PRAISE to God: *“Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory!”* (Isaiah 6:3) **WHAT’S THE POINT?** MUSIC is a ‘good gift’ (James 1:17) creation of God! And... from BEFORE the earth’s creation— music has been and remains for the grand purpose of giving PRAISE to God.

AT THE VERY MINIMUM the infallible revelation of Holy Scripture leaves us seeing that THE FOCUSED PURPOSE of music is that it is a divinely given means or way to express WORSHIP, PRAISE to Almighty God!

As surprising as it may be to us: Music was NOT CREATED for the purpose of secular entertainment. Music was NOT CREATED for the purpose of personal pleasure. Music was NOT CREATED for the purpose of religious entertainment!

The clear testimony of Scripture, (from before creation all the way into the FOREVER of eternity future), is that the FOCUS OF MUSIC/SINGING is for the PURPOSE OF PRAISING the Almighty, Triune/Creator/Redeemer God!

QUESTION: Upon seeing the Biblical revelation of THE PURPOSE of music — SHOULDN’T WE also place our focus on utilizing Music as a powerful gift and tool for the Worship of God?

HAVE WE THOUGHT ABOUT THIS? GOD LOVES MUSIC! This should come as no surprise, because God created music for the purpose of giving unto Himself the worship and praise that is due Him! He is Almighty God.

ALMIGHTY GOD [The Triune Father/Son/Holy Spirit] does not need to be praised in order to help His self-image! THE LORD OF HOSTS is not depressed. Our praise does not add anything to Him. **It is simply that He is God! He is worthy!** And when we praise Him by means of music and song, we are giving unto the true and living God the praise of which He is worthy.

SO, the Word of God cries out, “...COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING.” (Psalm 100, Psalm 95, 96) *“The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty: He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, **He will joy over thee with singing!”*** (Zephaniah

3:17) **God loves music!** Most often the music revealed in Scripture revolves around the Story of Redemption and the glories of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Thus, Christian, it is no surprise that God rejoices over you, a trophy of His grace! (Hebrews 2:12) **Moreover, God focused music can move God to manifest Himself!** (2 Chronicles 5:11-14)

IN CONTRAST, in the world today, a concert may be looked upon as secular or “Christian” but in either case— the music is OFTEN sung and/or played so as to entertain the listener and so as to bring praise to the performer. Talent is showcased. Music “stars” are created! Musicians are thronged and worshipped!

THUS, it is really no mystery as to why a fair number of the world’s “music stars” started their careers in church! In churches, talented youth were praised; as congregations clapped, cheered, and shouted their accolades to them as performers— rather than being moved to PRAISE GOD with responses of ‘AMEN! PRAISE THE LORD! Hallelujah! HALLELUJAH!

Sadly, instead of being schooled in the true worship of God, it was in church that they first got their EGO STROKED as they were praised for their talent in a church service!

NEVERTHELESS, God honoring music is never about showing off talent or about entertaining. God focused music is all about worshipping God, praising Him, pleasing Him; and about ministering unto Him. (Exodus 28:41)... and also about overflowing to the building up of the saints in the most holy faith. Christian music is to be done for the glory of God and presented as humble and holy service to God.

LET US ALL meditate deeply upon these Scriptures, **for when sanctified servants of God play and/or sing music— God shows up!** (2 Chronicles 5:11-14; Joshua 6:2-5, 15,20; 2 Chronicles 20:1-30; 1 Chron. 25:1,3,6,7; 1 Samuel 10:5-6; 2 Kings 3:15-16a; Psalm 22:3; 1 Cor. 14:1-3; Acts 16:25-26)

MOREOVER, as some of the above Scriptures show, the capacity to hear and receive specific and relevant truth from God is greatly enhanced by the awesome power of God focused, God glorifying music!

BACK TO LUCIFER!

At some point Lucifer began to desire worship for himself. In arrogance and pride he rebelled, as recorded in Isaiah 14:13-14. Tragically, a full one third of the angelic hosts joined Lucifer's rebellion. As a result, God EXPELLED satan, (and the other fallen angels), from heaven. Satan's sphere of influence is to this day, upon the earth: Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:3, 7-9.

WHAT'S THE POINT? Lucifer (now satan) and the fallen angels were originally created with musical giftedness which they used day and night in praise to God. HOWEVER, they rebelled against God. Satan, with his demonic forces are now working in the sphere of the earth.

NOTE THIS: After their rebellion there is NO INDICATION that they were stripped of their created abilities— THEY STILL HAVE THEIR MUSIC GIFTEDNESS! But obviously, they do not use their musical giftedness for the purpose of praise to God! They now focus all of their efforts and use all of their musical ability to generate worship for Lucifer or satan— or at least to DIVERT praise away from God and the LAMB!

It is critically important to understand that **Lucifer, satan, knows the power of music!** Satan has counterfeited music! THUS, it is no surprise that the airwaves of the world are filled with music— but not in praise to God!

Tragically, the world is filled with music that promotes the world and the flesh. Satan does not care what "flavor" of music we embrace, just so long as the music we choose does not openly and positively glorify God and the Lamb, leading us to worship and serve Almighty God with gladness!

WELL I THINK... Yes, I think that MY MUSIC is neutral.

WELL, let's 'assume' that 'your music' is neutral and so the question is—

how much time do I want to spend with 'neutral' music— when I live in a spiritual WAR ZONE and I need the POWER of Godly music to help me win battles; and when Godly music is HONORING to God, etc.??

IN GLORIOUS WONDER, the 14 different 'Songs of Heaven' in The Revelation

UNVEIL MUSIC/SINGING /PRAISE THAT POSITIVELY GLORIFIES GOD AND THE LAMB! The Psalms are filled with music/praise/songs UNTO THE LORD — DO WE spend much time there?

RELATED QUESTION: Why does SAYING OR SINGING PRAISE UNTO THE LORD MATTER? **There are strong Biblical Reasons Why Godly Singing Matters.** (Parts of this section edited from Colin Smith: <http://www.unlockingthebible.org/why-singing-matters/>)

1. When we sing, we obey. Colossians 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.*” Ephesians 5:18-19: “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, *SPEAKING TO one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart...*” When we sing, we’re doing what God calls us to do!

2. When we sing JESUS HONORING SONGS, we are getting more deeply in the Word of God: “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,” Colossians 3:16. Colossians 3:16 is clearly laying out for us that *Singing stands alongside of preaching/TEACHING as one of the two great ways that God has ordained for His Word to dwell RICHLY in each one of us!* **ONE BROTHER CALLED church singing “Take Home Theology,”**

HOW SO? REAL CHRISTIAN MUSIC SERVES as an easy to memorize, biblical summary of important truths from Scripture. **Take for example,** “WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SIN...” **or** “WHEN I SURVE THE WONDEROUS CROSS...”— in these and with many other great hymns of the faith we have a thorough theology of the cross of Jesus Christ with clear and practical applications that WE can use for our lives this week!

[DO YOU HAVE AND REGULARLY USE A GOOD HYMN BOOK in your home... to help you 'say' and/or 'sing' PRAISE TO GOD?]

3. When we sing GODLY CHRISTIAN SONGS, we help build up each other. Ephesians 5:19: Note specifically here that it says: “*addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...*” When we do what the Bible says and sing together as a church family, we are hearing confessions of faith all around! Also know that as WE sing, we’re helping unbelievers. Think of the impact on someone who doesn’t know Christ, HEARING ALL OF OUR testimonies AND confessions of faith as we sing together!

4. When we sing GOD focused SONGS/HYMNS, we glorify God. Colossians 3 & Ephesians 5 bring this out simply telling us to sing “to God” and **“to the Lord”**... Ephesians 5:19: “singing and making melody *to the Lord* with your heart.” **It is to HIM and about HIM that we sing!**

5. When we sing, we are spiritually strengthened for trial. In Acts 16, Paul and Silas are unjustly imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel, and what do they do while they’re in prison? Sing! (Acts 16:25) IN TRIALS, TEMPTATIONS, PERSECUTION, suffering— SING, SING, SING UNTO THE LORD!

6. GOD HONORING MUSIC AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE! A GODLY SONG-singing-heart is a heart at war with the work of the evil one and the power of sin.

It’s very hard to lie, be greedy or to look at something inappropriate when, you’re “singing and making melody to the LORD with your heart” (Eph. 5:19).

In spiritual warfare we know that we are to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-12) and bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Jesus Christ, (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

But in Psalm 149:1-9, we have a scene of giving praise to God with high volume and with authority. The specific occasion of this

prophetic Psalm is when Messiah comes back to punish all evil doers! **Yes, that will be a time for great praise to God! (See Rev. 16:1-7)**

THEREFORE: Let us go forth as strong **'PRAISERS'** of God into the many spiritual battles which we face! **Music and the SHOUT of victory tumbled the walls of Jericho!** Till Jesus comes, such **up front praise will still do wonders against all manner of walls of spiritual opposition!**

In fact, throughout the history of the church during times when the saints of God have been persecuted and even put to death— **GODLY MUSIC in PRAISE TO GOD** was critical to being empowered to stand fast in the faith without fear or compromise. **When Jehosaphat**, (2 Chronicles 20:1-30), was surrounded by enemies on every side, he cried out to God, *"We don't know what to do; but our eyes are on you, LORD!"* The desperately needed wisdom came from one of the anointed singers unto the LORD! What was the Word of God for that critical hour?— put the Choir out in front of the army and have them singing, ***"Praise the LORD; for His mercy endureth forever!"*** And when this music began to sound forth, **GOD SHOWED UP** and smote the enemy!

***** Please understand:** The world's music would not have helped! ***** WHY? BECAUSE, FOR GOD TO SHOW UP IN MIGHTY DELIVERANCE POWER, there must be, "SINGERS UNTO THE LORD", who from their hearts Praise the Beauty of God's holiness!**

The Issue Is Always Worship! And Our Music Has a Way of Matching the WHO or WHAT We Really Worship! (Exodus 32:15-18) *PLEASE Read those verses carefully!*

REMEMBER: Joshua, who had not been trained in Egypt as Moses had, ***thought the sounds were sounds like the torment and horror of war!*** HOWEVER, MOSES KNEW it was the noise of singing— **Israel had music to match their sin!**

****** My music reveals and matches my heart! ******

Question: Is "my music" an evidence of New Birth, of Revival, of loving and worshipping God— OR, is my music a sign of backsliding or even lostness?

“MY MUSIC” MOVES ME! — EITHER TOWARD LOVING, WORSHIPPING AND SERVING ALMIGHTY GOD... OR TOWARD LOVING, WORSHIPPING, AND SERVING THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL!

Abundant grace to one and all!
www.southsidegallatin.org

James Bell

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Questions call Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

**** WEDNESDAYS: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM; Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room ****

NOTE: Jody Allen is ministering to **Children**, during Prayer Service.

WEDNESDAY YOUTH MEETING, 6:30pm led by Chris and Rachel Beth Estep.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— April 23, 11:00am, The Life of David! - 1 Samuel 23-24 - Cindy Bell, teaching. {Meet in Ladies Sunday School Room: Come in FRONT doors of the church auditorium or the SIDE door at the top of the IRON STEPS!}

*** EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men’s Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in 1 Thessalonians}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY, April 19—

9:30am- Sunday School;

10:45am- Worship Service & LORD’S SUPPER;

NO noon meal.

HOME GROUPS @ 5:00pm

April 26—

9:30am- Sunday School;

10:45am- Worship Service;

NOON- Fellowship, Covered-dish meal;

1:00pm- Early Afternoon Service