

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

December 8, 2019

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

Worshipping the Lord in Song

Ronald D. Reeves

Christians have been commanded to take an active part in congregational worship in song (Ephesians 5:19). I trust we know that singing is truly a morally upright spiritual activity (Psalm 92:1). In the Old Testament, those who were encouraged to sing included the saints (Psalm 30:4) and the righteous (Psalm 33:1-2). On various occasions, the record indicates that all of the children of Israel sang, including Moses (Exodus 15:1), the Levites (2 Chronicles 29:30), King David (2 Samuel 22:1), Deborah and Barak (Judges 5:1), and the singers of Israel (2 Chronicles 29:28). In the New Testament, members of the church are commended to sing in worship (1 Corinthians 14:15, 26), including every member (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). This is supported by the example of Jesus singing with His disciples (Matthew 26:26-30) and by the example of Paul and Silas singing in prison (Acts 16:23-25).

Both in the Old and New testaments, the record indicates that righteous men and women should direct their (singing, edit by TCG) unto the Lord (Psalm 7:1; Ephesians 5:19) and unto one another (1 Samuel 21:11; Ephesians 5:19). Such stirring spiritual activity should be engaged in the assembly of the church (1 Corinthians 14:15, 26; Hebrews 2:12) and even at unexpected times of duress (Acts 16:23-25).

The biblical portrait of the character of our singing is manifestly clear. We should sing with the whole heart (Psalm 9:1), with understanding (Psalm 47:6-7), with reverence (2 Chronicles 29:30), with gladness (Psalm 9:1-2) and with joy (Psalm 6:1). The New Testament, in addition, directs that we worship in song in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24), employing spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19) as we sing praise unto the Lord (Acts 16:25), singing with the spirit and the understanding (1 Corinthians 14:15), with grace in our hearts (Colossians 3:16), as we teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16).

Should singing be a spiritual activity relegated to second-class status? The above biblical commentary suggests not. May we, as the psalmist, sing “as long as I live” (Psalm 104:33), even “forever” (Psalm 61:8). Long before Ephesians 5:19 was penned, righteous persons have been motivated to joyfully engage in spiritual singing as a response to the contexts of life. We note some of them from the Old Testament record.

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By the Numbers:

Week of 12/1/19

Contribution – \$2418

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes – 32

Sunday Worship* – 44

Wednesday Night – 41

*Total for the day

WORKS SUPPORTED:

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

The Gospel of Christ TV Program
Sundays:

6:30am - Ch. 8.2 (CW) 7:00am - Ch. 39.1

Listen to our radio station!

FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available online 24/7
at beaconcofc.com

Sermon Spotlight:

AM — Days of Infamy

1. What days in our country’s history are “days of infamy,” and how do they compare to such monumental days mentioned in the Bible?

PM — The Parable of the Ten Virgins

1. Who do the ten virgins represent?
2. What does this teach about being ready?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Joy Skipper, Kaitlyn Wilson, Tim Green, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Stetson Ortega, Bettie Young, Wendy Traweek, Dewey Young, Marcia Green, Martin Hattaway

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly events! If you would like to help host an event, please let Chase know!
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted.
- Food Pantry: Please help us restock our pantry with the following items: Canned vegetables (beans, carrots, corn, peas, etc.), canned meals (chili, tamales, Chef-Boyardee, etc.), & canned soups.

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Jews of past generations were motivated to sing because of things intimately related to the Lord, such as the position of the Lord as the King of all the earth (Psalm 47:6-7) or the character of the Lord, whether it be His righteousness (Psalm 7:17), His faithfulness (Psalm 89:1), His holiness (Psalm 30:4) or His honorable status (Psalm 6:1-2). Their past activity in song was also motivated by their perception of the power of the Lord as it was exercised (Psalm 21:13) and also by the consequences of such power (Psalm 9:1). The Word of the Lord also motivated them to sing. As they had personal faith in His Word, they responded in song (Psalm 106:12), especially when His Word prophesied victory over their enemies (2 Chronicles 20:21-22). Jews of past generations were also motivated to sing because of activity in association with the Temple, such as the laying of the Temple's foundation (Ezra 3:10-11) or the sanctifying of the Temple in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 29:1-28).

They especially were motivated to express themselves in song as they came to better realize the potential and actual working of the Lord in their personal lives. They broke out in song as they sought help from the Lord to protect them from enemies (Psalm 7:1) and to express their dependence upon the Lord (Psalm 57:6-7). They broke out in song as they received blessings from the Lord, whether such were manifold (Psalm 18:48-49) or bountiful (Psalm 13:6). More specifically, they broke out in song when they were blessed with needed water (Numbers 21:16-17), and when they were delivered from the Egyptians (Exodus 15:1, 21) and from the Canaanites (Judges 4). Yet, their song service was not limited to such matters. They were motivated unto their service in song because of their redemption (Psalm 71:22-23), their deliverance from sin (Psalm 51:14), their salvation (Psalm 95:1), divine mercy (Psalm 59:16-17) and the righteous judgment of the Lord (Psalm 67:4). Having been blessed in like manner, let every child of God sing personally, qualitatively, with positive impact upon others, with a historical perspective, to the Lord and to one another, throughout life and with godly motivation. The grace of God demands no less (Ephesians 2:8).

Another Gospel?

Chase Green

In Galatians 1:6-7a, Paul writes, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another..." The Galatian brethren had been "bewitched" (Gal. 3:1) into believing the Judaizing "version" of the gospel, which was no true gospel at all. In placing their faith in the works of the Law of Moses, and continuing to demand observance of that Law, the Judaizers had become guilty of promoting a new religion entirely, under the guise of the true gospel.

Paul uses two Greek words translated as "another" in this passage. The first (in verse 6) is "*heteros*," defined by *Thayer's* as "another: i.e. one not of the same nature ... different" (emphasis mine throughout, TCG). The second "another" is the Greek word "*allos*," (verse 7), defined by *Vine's* as "another of the same sort."

The distinction between these two Greek words gives the precise meaning that Paul intended. Paul couldn't believe that the Galatians had so quickly been removed from the grace of Christ unto another Gospel of a different sort, when it should have been apparent that there WAS no other Gospel of the same sort! The Judaizing false teachers had duped these brethren into following an entirely different religion, and they didn't even realize it!

Undoubtedly, these people would have still thought of themselves as Christians and standing in the grace of Christ, but Paul would write that they were "fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:4). Paul lists the reason for this being that they were seeking to be justified by the Law of Moses. The Bible is clear that the Law of Moses could not justify man; in fact, it did just the opposite — it CONVICTED man of His sins (See 2 Corinthians chapter 3). The Law of CHRIST (also known as "the perfect Law of Liberty," James 1:25 & 2:12) is what makes justification possible, because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ! That is way this Law is referred to as the "better covenant which was established upon better promises" (Heb. 8:6).

While it is still technically possible that some people are being deceived by Judaizers holding to works of the Old Law today (and in recent years I have seen some of this), more times than not, the false gospels (of a different [*heteros*] kind, which there IS no other of the same [*allos*] kind) that are prevalent today involve the false doctrine of "faith only." But this is just as condemning as the other extreme!

Those who teach such are taking all the responsibility of man's obedience away, and replacing it with the most basic definition of "faith," (belief only), even though the New Testament is FULL of passage that insist man must obey God (See Mat. 7:19, 21; Luke 6:46-49; John 14:15; Heb. 5:9; and many other passages). The Bible is clear that man MUST obey the Gospel (Rom. 10:16; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Pet. 4:17). The Bible clearly teaches that Christians MUST grow and develop the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; 3:18). All of this is abundantly clear, but sadly many people accept a pseudo-Christianity (a pseudo-gospel!) known as this doctrine of "faith ONLY." It is very sad, and it can be easily disproven by one verse (See James 2:24), yet countless millions of people continue to believe that as long as they believe in Christ, everything else will fall into place, regardless of whether or not they actually OBEY Him! This is a false gospel, and one that will cause many to be sadly and unexpectedly condemned on the Day of Judgment. May we warn them of the Truth before it's too late!

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. "

Acts 8:12