

# Singing Redemption's Song

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

### A. Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16

1. Have you ever noticed how often Christians sing when together? Have you attended an assembly of the church where there was no singing?
2. When we have midweek Bible study or Gospel meetings, we do not commune or take a collection, but we sing
3. Often when we gather in one another's homes, or visit shut-ins, or have a picnic or campfire, we sing
4. Can we gather as a church without singing? There is not a chapter in the Bible that instructs us how to conduct an assembly.
5. 1Corinthians 14 tells us what not to do in an assembly; it must be orderly and edifying

### B. Singing is a vital part of Christian worship

## I. GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS SUNG PRAISES TO HIM

- A. Israel sang praises to God before the Law was given - Ex. 15:20-21
- B. Israel sang praises to God under the Law of Moses - Num. 21:16-17
- C. They sang praises to God in the days of the prophets - Ezra 3:11; Jer. 20:13
- D. 65 times the psalmist encouraged the singing of praise to God - Psalm 147:1
- E. Jesus and His Apostles sang praises to God - Mark 14:26; Heb. 2:11-12
- F. Christians have sung praise to God from the beginning of the church until the present day - Acts 16:25

## II. CHRISTIANS ARE INSTRUCTED TO SING

- A. Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16; James 5:13; Heb. 13:15

## III. WHY CHRISTIANS SING WHEN ASSEMBLED FOR WORSHIP

- A. Christians have never assembled and sang purely for entertainment.
  1. Worship is pleasant and fills us with joy, but that is not the purpose of worship - Psalm 122:1
  2. Music has a powerful effect on our hearts - 1Sam. 16:23
  3. But that is not why we sing. Singing for entertainment is the work of the Adversary on contemporary religion; it makes worship all about the worshiper and not about God
- B. Christians sing to express the adoration and worship in their hearts to God.
  1. Eph. 5:19 - singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord
  2. Col. 3:16 - singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God
- C. Songs are means of expressing praise to God - Acts 16:25
- D. Christians sing to teach and to encourage each other - Col. 3:16
  1. Teaching requires words, which requires the word dwelling within us.
  2. Admonishing is pressing others to rise above the mean
  3. Eph. 5:19 - speaking to one another in psalms mandates words, not instruments.

- E. Christians build each other up with songs - 1Cor. 14:26
  - 1. Edification and encouragement is one of the reasons we assemble - Heb. 10:24-25

#### **IV. SINGING AND SINGING ONLY**

- A. The specific, positive command is to sing. The principle of exclusion applies.
  - 1. Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19 - Singing excludes all other musical forms
- B. Worship activities must be limited to what God has specified or it is not acceptable worship.
  - 1. Gen. 4:3-5 - There is no record of Cain given a list of things not to offer.
  - 2. Lev. 10:1-2 - Nadab and Abihu were not given a list of incorrect fires.
  - 3. Num. 20:8-12 - Moses was told to speak to the rock; he did not need to be told not to strike it, or yell at it, or dance around it, or sprinkle it with pixie dust. When God said speak to it, He excluded all other actions.
  - 4. 2Sam. 6:3, 6-7 - They were told to carry it with staves; they did not need to be told not to use new carts, or ox carts, or horse carts, or go-carts. Carry it with staves excludes all other forms of transport.
  - 5. God commanded Christians to sing; any other musical mode makes worship unacceptable. He does not have to command us not to play pianos, organs, guitars, snare drums, tambourines, or jew's-harps.
- C. God considers any alteration to His instructions as disrespectful to Him.
  - 1. Nadab, Abihu, and Moses' offense was that they disrespected God.
    - a. Lev. 10:3; Num. 20:12
  - 2. The God we worship is no less holy and exacting.
- D. There is no need for an aide to singing in worship.
  - 1. There is a difference between instrumental accompaniment and a song book or pitch pipe.
  - 2. New Testament Christians used song books since the early days of the church; they sung psalms which were written in the book of Psalms.
  - 3. At best, an instrument is a crutch that turns singers into spectators, and congregation becomes an audience
  - 4. Only man listens to and appreciate instruments made by man's hands, God listens to the instrument He created, our hearts.
  - 5. The instrument increases man's enjoyment; singing from the heart increases God's glory.
- E. If we want for our worship to be accepted by God, we must follow His instructions in worship.