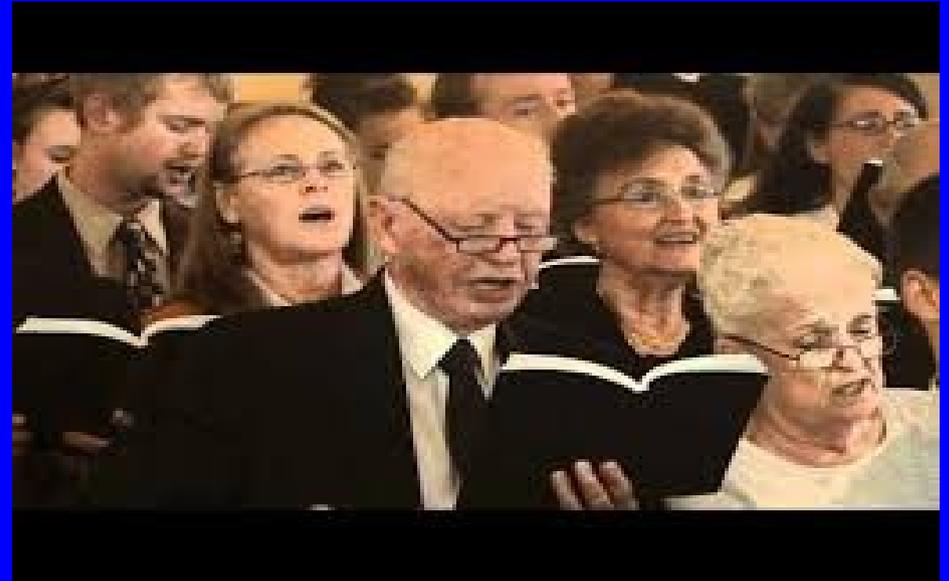


Why We Sing - - -

Without Instruments



Ephesians 5:19

Colossians 3:16

Introduction

- Many accounts of people who worshiped God
- Some pleased Him – Able, Noah, Uzziah, Hezekiah
- Some did not please Him – Cain, Nadab & Abihu, Corinthians, idolaters

Introduction

- Learn two lessons:
- God wants people to worship Him.
- It must be done as He had told us to do it.

First thing they notice

- Most first time visitors notice that we don't have an organ or piano – no band or orchestra – not even a guitar player
- Here are four statements that will help us understand that God wants us to worship Him with vocal music.

1) The 1st Century Church Sang

- **Ephesians 5:19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
- **Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

1) The 1st Century Church Sang

- **1 Corinthians 14:15** What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.
- **Hebrews 13:15** Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.
- No command to use instruments
- No example where they were used

2) Must follow His directions

- Remember the examples of those who did not follow God's instruction.
- **Leviticus 10:1-2** 1 Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

2) Must follow His directions

- Remember the examples of those who did not follow God's instruction.
- God gave instruction about the Passover lamb to be offered.
- **Exodus 12:5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

3) Religious Leaders Opposed Them

- **John Calvin**, one of the founders of the Presbyterian Church: "Musical instruments in celebrating the praise of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting up of lamps, the restoration of the other shadows of the law. The Papists, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this, as well as many other things, from the Jews." John Calvin's Commentary, Ps. 33.

3) Religious Leaders Opposed Them

- **Adam Clarke**, the greatest commentator of all time among the Methodists: "I am an old man, and an old minister; and I here declare that I never knew them (musical instruments) productive of any good in the worship of God; and have had reason to believe that they were productive of much evil. Music, as a science, I esteem and admire; but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the Author of Christianity." Clarke's Commentary, Vol. 4, page 684.

3) Religious Leaders Opposed Them

- **John Wesley**, the founder of the Methodist Church, is quoted by Adam Clarke to have said: "I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen." Clarke's Commentary, Vol. 4, page 684.

3) Religious Leaders Opposed Them

- **Martin Luther**, founder of the Lutheran Church and a distinguished reformer, "called the organ an ensign of baal." McClintock and Strong's Encyclopedia, Vol. 6, page 762.

3) Religious Leaders Opposed Them

- **Charles H. Spurgeon**, recognized as one of the greatest Baptist preachers that ever lived, who preached for 20 years to thousands of people weekly in the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle, London, England, did not have musical instruments in the worship. “I would just as soon pray with machinery as to sing with machinery.” M.C. Kurfees, *Instrumental Music in the Worship*, page 196.

3) Religious Leaders Opposed Them

- **Conybeare and Howson**, famous scholars of the Church of England, in commentary of Ephesians 5:19 say, "Make melody with the music of your hearts, to the Lord...let your songs be, not the drinking of heathen feasts, but psalms and hymns; and their accompaniment, not the music of the lyre, but the melody of the heart." Life and Epistles of St. Paul, Vol. 2, page 408.

3) Religious Leaders Opposed Them

- **J.W. McGarvey**, well-known minister of the Church of Christ, "It is manifest that we cannot adopt the practice without abandoning the obvious and only ground on which a restoration of Primitive Christianity can be accomplished." *What Shall We Do About the Organ?*, page 4.

4) We can be sure singing is acceptable to God

- **Some argue that this is not a salvation issue.**
 - It was a life or death issue with Nadab & Abihu
 - It was important to Jews observing the Passover

4) We can be sure singing is acceptable to God

- **Some argue that this is not a salvation issue.**
 - It was a life or death issue with Nadab & Abihu
 - It was important to Jews observing the Passover
- **Some say we should not judge others in this matter.**
 - I am not the judge of anyones eternal destiny
 - All I can do is preach what the Bible says

4) We can be sure singing is acceptable to God

- **With vocal music – we can be sure we are doing what is pleasing to God.**
- **If we want to please the Lord we need to do only what He has commanded.**

Colossians 3:16-17

- 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
- “In the name” = by the authority