

A collage of sheet music pages, likely from a hymnal or songbook, featuring various musical staves and lyrics. The pages are layered and slightly blurred, creating a sense of depth. The central focus is the text "SING TO THE LORD" in large, white, bold, sans-serif font, which is superimposed over the music. The lyrics visible on the pages include "An - gels we have heard", "Shepherds, why this is - le - le!" and "Come to Beth - le - hem, and see that Christ the Lord, the Son of Mary, Jo - seph, lead your ad - mit - ted".

“SING TO THE LORD”

God's Purpose for Singing

1. Praise

Hebrews 2:12

“I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

Hebrews 13:15

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Psalms 104:33

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

God's Purpose for Singing

2. Expression

Psalm 42

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.

James 5:13

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.
Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

God's Purpose for Singing

3. Thanksgiving

Psalm 118

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Ephesians 5:20

Giving thanks always and for everything to God
the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

God's Purpose for Singing

4. Teaching & Admonishing

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.

God's Purpose for Singing

5. Encouragement & Edification

Acts 16:25

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Matthew 26:30

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of an open sheet music book. The pages are filled with musical notation, including treble and bass clefs, notes, and rests. The lyrics of the hymn "God is Love" are visible on the pages, such as "1. An - gels we have heard", "2. Shepherds, why this", "Come to Beth - le - hem, and we", "Come with - in", "the moun - tains in", "the valley may the", "Glo", and "Refrain". The text is in a classic serif font, and the overall color palette is warm and golden-brown.

God is Love

Come, let us all unite to sing, God is love.
Let heav'n and earth their praises bring,
God is love.

Let ev'ry soul from sin awake,
Each in his heart sweet music make,
And sing with us, for Jesus' sake,
For God is love!

God is love! God is love!
Come, let us all unite to sing that God is love.

Characteristics of Proper Worship

Worship is something that is learned/taught.

- Luke 11:1-4
“Teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”
- We must learn God’s word so that we can grow stronger in Christ, teach others, and overcome false teachings
 - (1 Peter 2:1-2) - “long for the pure spiritual milk...”
 - (2 Timothy 2:2; 4:1-5)

Characteristics of Proper Worship

Worship should be right/obedient/truthful.

Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Characteristics of Proper Worship

Worship should be right/obedient/truthful.

Matthew 15:8-9

"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Characteristics of Proper Worship

Worship should be right/obedient/truthful.

Leviticus 10:1-3

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. ² And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. ³ Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’” And Aaron held his peace.

Characteristics of Proper Worship

Worship should be right/obedient/truthful.

John 4:23-24

²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Characteristics of Proper Worship

Worship should be orderly

1 Cor. 14:26,40

²⁶ What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

⁴⁰ But all things should be done decently and in order.

Characteristics of Proper Worship

Worship should be reverent

Daniel 6:10

¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.

Characteristics of Proper Worship

Worship should be reverent

- (2 Chr. 7:1-3) — Dedication of the temple: All bowed their faces to the ground.
- (2 Chr. 29:28-30) — Hezekiah's Passover celebration: sang praises, bowed down and worshipped.
- (Nehemiah 8) — All the people stood when the Book of the Law was opened.

Characteristics of Proper Worship

Worship should be well-prepared

(Exodus 19:10-11) - The Israelites prepare for 3 days to come before God at Mt. Sinai

(Exodus 29:35-37) - The priests were ordained 7 days before coming before God.

Preparing to Sing

1. Am I prepared in my heart?

- Why am I here?
- What am I doing?
- What is my purpose for doing this?
- Am I able to worship in spirit and truth?



Preparing to Sing

2. Am I prepared in my mind?

- Do I know what I am singing about?

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of sheet music. The music is written on staves with treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are visible, including the title 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus' and the first verse. The paper has a warm, aged tone. The text is overlaid in white, bold font.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, The shadow
of a mighty rock within a weary land. A home within the
wilderness, A rest upon the way, From the burning of the noontide
heat, And the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying
form of One who suffered there for me; and from my stricken
heart with tears two wonders I confess; the wonders of redeeming
love and my unworthiness.

Preparing to Sing

2. Am I prepared in my mind?

- Do I know what I am singing about?
- Did I consider the purpose/meaning of the song?
- Am I paying attention to the song leader?
- Have I focused my attention to what I am doing?
- Do I have a basic understanding of music?

Preparing to Sing

2. Am I prepared physically?

- Did I plan to get enough sleep? Eat? Drink?
- Did I turn off my phone?
- Did I plan to use the restroom before worship?
- Did I prepare my family?
- What does my posture say?
- What does my face say?



I'm Happy Today

I'm happy today, O yes I'm happy today
In Jesus Christ, I'm happy today
Because he's taken all my sins away
And that's why I'm happy today.

Singing, Praying, Living!