

- “Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100) For centuries, mankind has sung of the amazing qualities and characteristics of our Great God. The ability to sing and worship is certainly a wonderful blessing given to us by our Creator.
  - A few months ago, we studied on the subject of whether or not that praise and worship for us should include mechanical instruments of music, and normally when music is considered in a sermon that is the approach taken. That type of study is needed from time to time, but rarely do you hear sermons from a more positive approach. Instead of studying why we don't use mechanical instruments of worship, I want us to consider **Ephesians 5:19,20 & Colossians 3:16** to see why we sing. Why is it that God has given us this ability and what things are accomplished in our participation in sing of praises to God. This will be a good study and reminder for us since we will be doing a lot of singing over the next few weeks.
- I. **We sing because we get to speak to one another.**
- A. *“Speaking to one another” (Eph. 5:19)*
  - B. God created us as social beings.
    - 1. I'm not going to point any fingers at all, but we have a lot of people here who love to talk
    - 2. We love to talk so much that I am often waiting to lock up the building while people are talking after services, which isn't a bad thing at all! It just goes to show that we really enjoy speaking and communicating with one another.
    - 3. Even some of us that might be a little more introverted are seen talking to others and its not just a word here or there, but it is full on conversation.
    - 4. It certainly is a wonderful blessing that God has given us to communicate with one another.
  - C. When we sing, we are not only praising God, but we are also speaking to one another through the words that are sung.
    - 1. Our love for speaking to one another and communication translates to our singing together.
    - 2. Not only are there the vertical aspect in our singing to God, but there is also a horizontal aspect in that we speaking to one another through the songs.
    - 3. This aspect is missing from many churches today because they have taken their worship to a place of entertainment more than anything else.
    - 4. You might have singers on stage, but hardly anyone in the audience is singing out. In that their is very little to no teaching of one another.
    - 5. We sing because we want to speak to one other through the words of the songs.
    - 6. The Psalmist understood the speaking to one another aspect of worship when he said, *“O give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; Make known His deeds amount the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; Speak of all His wonders. Glory in His holy name! Let the heart o those who seek the Lord be glad.”* (Psalm 105:1-3)
- II. **We sing because it teaches and admonished our brethren.**
- A. *“teaching and admonishing one another.” (Col. 3:16)*
  - B. Through our singing we encourage, teach, and implore our brethren to a higher standard of life in Jesus Christ.
    - 1. The songs that we sing should have important spiritual substance to them because we want to be able to teach, encourage, and admonish one another with the words.
    - 2. That's one reason why we don't sing all the songs in our books. Some of the songs just are not deep with spiritual content, or they might even be incorrect in what they are saying.
    - 3. Therefore, we do not sing those songs that would lead us to teach, encourage, or admonish those around us incorrectly.
    - 4. Much like how we expect the lessons to be full of sound Biblical teachings, we should expect for our songs to be the same, full of sound Biblical teachings.
  - C. One such song that is not only beautiful, but also full of good spiritual content is the song “Wonderful Words of Life” #405. (“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” John 6:68)
    - 1. *“Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life; Let me more of their beauty see, Wonderful words of life. Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.”* (v. 1)

2. *“Christ, the blessed one, gives to all, wonderful words of life; sinner list to the loving call, wonderful words of life. All so freely given wooing us to heaven. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.”* (v.2)
3. *“Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life; offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life. Jesus only savior, sanctify forever. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.”* (v.3)
4. This song speaks to exactly the point of our singing. In our singing we are teaching one another of the great love and forgiveness that is given through Jesus.
5. The gospel is free for all people, and that is echoed time and time again throughout the songs that we sing. This message and many more are included in the songs that we sing, and we are constantly teaching and reminding each other of these great Biblical truths.

### III. We sing because we are spiritually focused.

- A. *“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs”* (Eph. 5:19) *“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you... with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.”* (Col. 3:16)
- B. We don't come together to sing just any songs, but we sing songs that are focused on spiritual things.
  1. When we come together to sing, we sing those songs that are spiritually focused
  2. Another why we don't sing some of the songs in our book is because they just are not spiritually focused.
  3. In some song books you will find patriotic songs. Now, there is nothing wrong with those songs. I love patriotic songs. Few things give me the goose bumps more than singing the national anthem at sporting events with thousands of other people.
  4. However, those types of songs and other secular songs don't have a place in the worship assembly where our minds are totally focused on our awesome God.
  5. The songs we sing ought to be spiritually focused because we are spiritually focused in our singing of hymns.
- C. When we sing, our hearts are totally focused on the spiritual message of the songs.
  1. Jesus and His disciples had just concluded a very spiritual occasion in the Lord's Supper when they decided to sing a hymn together. **(Matt. 26:30)**
  2. They were focused on spiritual things, and that is our focus whenever we come together, as well. As we sing, we should consider the spiritual words that we are singing.
  3. There might even be times when the words really touch us emotionally through the songs. I'm sure we have all been there before when the words of a song really hit us and cause us to really consider the greatest of our God and all that He has done for us.

### IV. We sing because we are thankful to God.

- A. *“always giving thanks for all things.”* (Eph. 5:20) *“singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”* (Col. 3:16)
- B. Obviously, we can sing with no feeling at all. It can be quite easy to just go through the motions of singing.
  1. Sometimes, our minds can be taken away from the spiritual focus of the songs and the teaching we are engaged in.
  2. We can easily have our lips moving and words coming out, but we have put little to no effort or thought into our singing.
  3. This isn't how it ought to be for us. We have an awesome opportunity to focus on our God and sing beautiful songs of thanksgiving to Him. We should want to jump all over that opportunity to thank Him for the many wonderful things he has done for us.
- C. That is why we sing together with a joyful melody of thanks to God. We sing because there are so many things for us to be thankful for.
  1. In the song we looked at earlier, He has given us salvation through His Son.
  2. In other songs we sing of how the Lord takes care of us in so many different ways.
  3. We sing songs that talk about the forgiveness and healing that is found in Jesus.
  4. Through all of these things we are offering up *“a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that gives thanks to His name.”* (Heb. 13:15)

There are obviously many great things that happen whenever we are we get to come together and sing. God has greatly blessed us with the ability to do so, and we ought to take advantage of it every single chance we get. Whether we think we are good singers or not so good singers, God is pleased when our thankful hearts come together to speak, teach, encourage, and admonish one another to live up to the godly standard our Lord has given for His people. May He always help us to remember the great blessing of our singing and may we always give him our hearts in our songs.