

Worship that Pleases God

October 26th & 27th, 2013

John 4:23-24

God is seeking “True Worshipers”

- ❖ Worship “*in Spirit*” is worship in the Holy Spirit.
 - ↳ The Holy Spirit in us seeks to glorify Jesus through our lives.
“He [the Holy Spirit] will glorify me [Jesus], for He will take what is mine and declare it to you.” John 16:14
- ❖ Worship “*in Truth*” is worship according to the Word of God.
 - ↳ The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.
“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.” John 16:13
“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” John 8:31-32
- ❖ Worship according to God’s Word has a significant focus: God Himself! *Psalm 100*
“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:16-17

History of Music and Singing in the Church

Early history of Christian worship

“Though we know that early Christians sang during worship, they probably used no instruments. Nearly all of the backgrounds from which early Christians came – Jewish, Greek, Roman, Egyptian, and more – had instrumental traditions, but these traditions carried negative associations. Most church fathers saw the use of instruments in Jewish worship as a “childish” weakness, less glorifying to God than words of praise. In pagan worship, instrumental music and debauchery were often linked, as this fourth-century manuscript suggests:

‘[I]n blowing on the tibia [pipes] they puff out their cheeks ... they lead obscene songs ... they raise a great din with the clapping of scabella [a type of foot percussion]; under the influence of which a multitude of other lascivious souls abandon themselves to bizarre movements of the body.’ (The Story of Christian Music, p. 28).

Unaccompanied vocal music continued to be the norm in Christian worship for centuries.”¹

“During the early history of Christian worship the churches were spread through many countries in the Roman Empire. The musical traditions that already existed in these countries were used, so there was great variety. Musical instruments were associated with the devil and with dancing, and so they were thought to be wicked and were not allowed in churches. The only music that was allowed in churches was singing.”²

Recent history of Christian worship

In the 1600's and 1700's, some of the world's greatest composers contributed to the Mass. [Bach, Handel, Mozart] ... In the 18th century, religious music expanded beyond all bounds that had ever been set for it. Composers ‘borrowed’ common melodies and even secular/popular songs, rewriting religious words to them. During this period were birthed hymns, anthems, and choruses for both Catholic and Protestant churches. ... The 19th and 20th centuries introduced freedom of style in what history calls the ‘Liturgical Movement.’ Religious music underwent a transformation to suit a changing and evolving congregation. Liturgies were simplified and often translated into the country's own language. The Liturgical Movement

sought to preserve the history of the traditional music in the church, yet design a style of music that would meet the needs of a more modern parishioner. Music was not only simplified but integrated, with pastors and composers setting religious texts to folk melodies to encourage congregations to join in the singing.”³

“The ‘Jesus Movement’ of the 1970’s was when things really started changing and Christian music began to become an industry within itself. [Chuck Girard, 2nd Chapter of Acts] ... These artists, and others like them, took the music that spoke of Jesus and merged it with the times. Christian music became more ‘user friendly’ ... By the early 1980’s the Jesus Movement was dying out and another group of artists were coming to the forefront. Rock and metal music, already popular in the secular industry, was finding a home in the world of Christian music. [Petra, Stryper] ... The 1990’s saw the dawning of an even broader scope for Christian music. Rock, rap, metal, urban gospel, contemporary country and pop were represented in a big way. [dcTalk, Third Day, Steven Curtis Chapman] ... Y2K came and went with none of the ‘end of times’ predictions being fulfilled and music grew even more. Sub-genres, sounds that could keep pace with mainstream and plenty of new bands are pouring out of the 21st century. [Jeremy Camp, Casting Crowns, Relient K].”⁴

Biblical History of Music and Singing for God’s People

❖ Scripture presents a wide range of expression in our worship of God.

♦ Instruments! (Psalm 149:1-4; Psalm 150:1-6)

↳ Jubal was the inventor of musical instruments.

“His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.” Gen 4:21

♦ Singing!

“Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!” Psalm 100:2

“Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.” Psalm 96:1-2

♦ Expression!

↳ Lifting our hands

“So I will bless You as long as I live; in Your name I will lift up my hands.” Psalm 63:4

“I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;” 1 Timothy 2:8

↳ Clapping and Shouting

“Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!” Psalm 47:1

↳ Kneeling

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!” Psalm 95:6

↳ Dancing

“Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!” Ps 149:3

↳ Silence

“But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.” Habakkuk 2:20

True Worshipers of God

❖ Why is expressive worship difficult? Pride and Passiveness!

♦ Passiveness and non-participation is cultivated in our entertainment saturated culture!

❖ We are not in a worship service to be entertained – we are participants in our grateful and heart-felt worship of God!

❖ God’s Word emphasizes the heart of the worshiper rather than the style of the music. Styles change but God never changes!

God is seeking “True Worshipers” who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth!

Endnotes:

- ¹ Coffman, Elesha. "When did churches start using instrumental music?." *www.christianitytoday.com/*. Christianity Today, 08 Aug 2008. Web. <<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/asktheexpert/nov30.html>>.
 - ² "Church Music." *wikipedia.org*. Wikipedia, 08 Jul 2013. Web. <http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_music>.
 - ³ "The History Of Music In Church Worship." *www.essortment.com/*. Essortment. Web. <<http://www.essortment.com/history-music-church-worship-60667.html>>.
 - ⁴ Jones, Kim. "The Changing Face of Christian Music." *About.com*. Web. <<http://christianmusic.about.com/od/trivia/a/ccmhistory.htm>>.
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