

Praise God In Song

Text : **Psalms #95: 1-6, #100: 1-5**

S#2.

A. Music is an inherent part of being human.

1. The University of Delaware and Temple University jointly published a studies entitled "Universal People."
2. Their study looked for and found many traits that are common to all mankind.
 - a. The use of language and the formation of sentences.
 - b. The feeling of personhood and of superiority to other creatures.
 - c. The family structure and the forming of communities.
 - d. The use of fire and the building of shelters.
 - e. A sense of property and the claiming of territory. (*Many others*)
3. The common characteristic that is germane to this lesson is music and dance. **S#3.**
 - a. All world cultures have some form of music and dancing.
 - b. Whatever the form of music which is common to any given culture, it will contain melody, rhythm, repetition, redundancy and variation

B. Music has an effect on the emotions of a person. **S#4.**

1. **I Sam. 16: 23** – So it came about whenever the evil spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play it with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him.
2. Because this is true, we must be careful not to use music to manipulate (e.g. Zwingli)

C. Music expresses some emotions better than mere words. **S#5.**

1. Country songs are about the pain of relationships gone wrong.
2. Much of contemporary music is about the desire for relationship.
3. **Job 29: 13** – ... The blessing of him who was about to perish came upon me, And I made the widow's heart sing for joy. (ESV)
4. **James 5: 13** – Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. **S#6.**

D. Perhaps this is why music has always been part of worshipping God.

1. Every time God did something great for Israel, they sang a song about it.
 - a. **Exod. 15** ... Song after deliverance from Egypt.
 - b. **II Sam. 22:13** ... David after God delivered him from his enemies.
2. Man sings in worship because it is a way for the heart to express what it feels.

Since it is a part of our worship, let's examine "Worshipping God in Song." S#7.

I. First let us consider that God commanded Christians to sing to Him. S#8.

A. There are significant differences in Jewish and Christian worship. S#9.

1. Jewish worship was centralized in Jerusalem.
 - a. Man had to go to the temple to meet with God. (*Minimum of 3 x per yr*)
 - b. There was only one temple in one city.
2. The Jews were largely spectators in worship. (*All was very physical / sensual*)
 - a. They could not go before God; the priests approached God in their behalf.
 - b. The priests prayed and offered sacrifices for the people.
 - c. The people listened to the singers sing and the players play.

B. Christian worship is actively participatory. (*Emphasize spiritual worship*) S#10.

1. Everyone is commanded to sing. S#11.

Col. 3: 16 – Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- a. Each person sings with a view toward it's affect on others ... *admonish*.
- b. Singing is done "with all wisdom" which indicates some thoughtfulness.
- c. However, not everyone sings every word of every song. (*teacher – student*) S#12.

I Cor. 14: 26 – What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

2. Every Christian can participate in the teaching, edifying, exhorting, etc. S#13.

I Cor. 14: 31 – For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted;

3. Every Christian must participate in the Lord's Supper. S#14.

I Cor. 11: 20 – Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,
Vs. **33** – So then, ... , when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

4. Every Christian is to make an offering to God. S#15.

I Cor. 16: 1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. ² On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

5. Every Christian individually prays directly to God. S#16.

I Thes. 5: 16-18 Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks,

C. The point is ... Worship is not for spectators.**S#17.**

1. There are those today who would take us back to the days of the Jewish law.
2. When the Catholic church was formed, Gregory (590-604) limited singing.
 - a. He felt only holy words could be sung.
 - b. He wanted only trained singers to sing.
 - c. His singers sang in Latin. (**I Cor. 14: 15 .. I will sing with the mind**)
3. Luther's reformation movement brought singing back to the people.
4. Today "Christianity" is dividing over this same issue.
 - a. Large churches are trying to draw people in using entertainment.
 - b. Many denominational church are eliminating choirs and other special music.

II. God's command is specific ... sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.**S#18.****A. Establishing of authority ... general or specific.****S#19.**

1. A generic command allows discretion.
 - a. General command : Go buy milk.
 - b. *Can buy any milk from any source.*
2. A specific command eliminates all else.
 - a. Specific Command : Go to County Market and buy a gallon of 2% milk.
 - b. *Certain store, certain quantity, certain kind = no discretion.*

B. God's command to "sing" is specific.

1. He did not say "***Make music.***"
 - a. "Make music" could include anything considered to be music by any culture.
 - b. It could include mechanical instruments, clapping, beating on objects, etc.
2. The specific command to "**sing**" eliminates all else.

S#20.

* 3. **Songs are not sung to accompany or to aid worship, they ARE worship.**

C. God also specified the source of the melody.**S#21.**

1. **Eph. 5: 18-20** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

2. Having specified the “**heart**”, the melody can come from no other source.
 - a. The heart is to be filled with the Spirit. (*Devoted, motivated by, directed toward*)
 - b. The heart must be filled with gratitude.
3. The melody must be directed “**to the Lord.**” (*Cannot be performed for audience*)
 - a. Christians sing to each other, but their hearts are directed to the Lord.
 - b. Men hear the notes, *God hears the heart.* S#22.
- * c. **Songs are to express the feelings of the heart NOT to create feelings.**

D. The singing is to be composed of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. S#23.

1. This rules out all other types of songs ... hiphop, rapp, rock, free jaz, etc.
2. Psalms are : #745 S#24.
 - a. Sung antiphonal (*two groups responding*)
 - b. Very often “lined.” (*Leader sings line, audience sings it back.*)
 - c. This form was used extensively in N.T. worship. (*Had no song books*)
3. Hymns are : #10 S#25.
 - a. Songs of praise, usually about Jesus.
 - b. Usually sung monophonic ... a single musical line sung as one voice.
 - 1) There were no parts sung much like singing folk songs around a camp fire.
 - 2) No lining (no repeating back)
 - c. A series of notes strung together as one musical syllable. (*could be chanted*)
4. Spiritual songs are : #242 S#26.
 - a. Sung with emotion.
 - b. Words and phrases are often repeated.
 - c. This type could be sung as notes with no words at all.
- * *It's based upon the premise that the human voice is the perfect instrument of praise.*
5. **God is very specific about the music He will accept as worship.** S#27.

III. In # 95 the Psalmist gave us at least 4 guides for worshipping God in Song. S#28.

- A. Sing congregationally “Let US sing for joy to the Lord.”** S#29.
1. In 363 a.d. the Council of Laodicea forbid congregational singing.
 2. Martin Luther returned congregational singing and wrote songs to bar tunes.
 3. John Calvin allowed only the singing of the Psalms.
 4. Ulrich Zwingli forbid any singing in the churches because it was “too powerful.”

6. We've already seen the N.T. emphasis ... **Col. 3: 16, Eph. 5: 19**

B. Sing intentionally “Sing for joy to the Lord.”

S#30.

1. When we sing we need to have our hearts and minds centered on God.
2. In our fast paced life we tend to get distracted. (*Sing w/o thinking about it*)
3. Meditate on the meaning of the songs.

S#31.

*** Remember, we don't sing for the pleasure or entertainment of the audience.**

C. Sing expressively “Shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.”

S#32.

1. “**Shout**” is the same word used to describe Israel at Jericho. ... **Judges 6:20**
2. **Eph. 5: 18-19** ... **be filled with the Spirit,** ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms
3. Emotion is required in worship. (*Exuberance, zeal, enthusiasm, etc.*)

- a. **Deut. 28: 47-48** Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things; ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.

S#33.

- b. **Eph. 5** ... God requires that our heart have a melody for Him,
NOT that we complete an “act of worship”, a ritual.

D. Sing responsively (e.g. #96 ... I Stand In Awe)

S#34.

1. Vs. **2-3** Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.
3 For the Lord is a great God And a great King above all gods,
2. Our worship responds to and acknowledges what God is and has done.
3. God is not great because of our worship; we worship because He is great.
4. *Every one of us deserve Hell, but Jesus died to save us anyway. BE GRATEFUL.*

IV. When we grasp the majesty of God worship just happens.

S#35.

A. The concept of worship is to ascribe value to God ... praise, glory, honor.

S#36.

1. The 24 elders before God demonstrated the pattern.
Rev. 4: 11 – Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created

S#37.

2. The hosts of Heaven demonstrate worship for Jesus.
Rev. 5: 11 – saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

S#38.

B. Too often Christians lose sight of the majesty of God.**S#39.**

1. We become like a boring old couple whose marriage outlasted their zing.
 - a. They would never dream of being unfaithful, but the fire has gone out.
 - b. They still love each other, but in a predictable and comfortable way.
2. We have allowed our relationship with God to become the same way.
 - a. We've come to the assembly and done the same things so often they mean little.
 - b. Everything the preacher preaches you have heard before.
 - c. You know most of the songs by heart and can sing them while your mind drifts.
3. God will not stay in that kind of habitual relationship. **S#40.**
 - a. **Rev. 3: 16** – **So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.**
 - b. **John 4: 24** – **God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit ...**

C. Just as couples must work on their relationship to keep it alive and vital, Christians must constantly work on their relationship with God.**S#41.**

1. Each of us has personal responsibility in that regard.
2. Each of us also has a responsibility to the family of God.
3. The elders have a responsibility to identify and address problems in the family.

D. Our elders have identified an area they want for us to work on – our singing.

1. We already sing well so we have great potential. **S#42.**
 - a. Wisdom requires one develop his strengths and hone his skills.
 - b. **Phil. 1: 9** – **And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,**
2. One reason we sing so well is that we've been singing the same few songs forever.

E. The elders have launched us on a program to improve our singing and add songs

1. We've seen by this lesson that God has a strong desire that we worship in song.
2. When we worship we offer a verbal sacrifice of praise. **S#43.**

Heb. 13: 15 – **Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.**
3. We all want to give God the very best sacrifice we possibly can. **S#44.**

*** *Let's get behind this project, cooperate with our elders and apply ourselves to building our relationship with God through our singing.***

Lesson Text :

Psalms 95: 1-7

1 O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD,
Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before His presence with
thanksgiving,
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

3 For the LORD is a great God
And a great King above all gods,

4 In whose hand are the depths of the earth,
The peaks of the mountains are His also.

5 The sea is His, for it was He who made it,
And His hands formed the dry land.

6 Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

7 For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep
of His hand.
Today, if you would hear His voice,

Psalm #100: 1-5

1 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.

2 Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful singing.

3 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.

4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

5 For the LORD is good;
His lovingkindness is everlasting
And His faithfulness to all generations.