

Message on Friday, February 3, 2023

"MAKING MUSIC TO THE MAKER OF MUSIC"

by Drew Crandall

PSALM 100:2 SAYS, "Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing." I think we've done that tonight. Thank you, Patrick and band, for helping us to do that.

THERE ARE AT LEAST 400 MUSIC-RELATED PASSAGES IN THE BIBLE. THE MOST COMMON WORDS ARE **SING** AND **SINGING**. OTHER WORDS INCLUDE MUSIC, SONG, INSTRUMENT, HARP, STRINGS AND FLUTE. FOR A GUY LIKE ME, BEING A DRUMMER, I ESPECIALLY LIKE THE WORD **CYMBAL**. Psalm 150:5 says, "Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals."

OF COURSE, NOT ALL MUSIC, NOT ALL SINGING, GLORIFIES THE LORD. IN EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE, INCLUDING MUSIC, THERE IS A SPECTRUM THAT GOES FROM LIGHT TO DARKNESS, FROM GOOD TO EVIL. FOR EXAMPLE:

- THERE IS GODLY SINGING AND UNGODLY SINGING.
- THERE ARE GODLY LYRICS AND UNGODLY LYRICS.
- THERE IS GODLY INSTRUMENT-PLAYING AND UNGODLY INSTRUMENT-PLAYING. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN AROUND A WHILE CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
- HERE AT JACOB'S WELL, YOU WILL NOT HEAR UNGODLY SINGING, SING UNGODLY LYRICS, OR HEAR UNGODLY INSTRUMENT-PLAYING. DARKNESS HAS NO PLACE HERE.
- SOMETIMES, YOU MAY HEAR SOMEONE IN THE AUDIENCE SAY SOMETHING UNGODLY. I CAN'T CONTROL WHO COMES AND EVERYTHING THEY SAY. BUT JACOB'S WELL IS A DISTINCTLY, OVERTLY "CHRISTIAN" COFFEEHOUSE.

IN THIS PASSAGE FROM PSALMS, GOD WANTS THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM, KNOW HIM, AND SERVE HIM TO DO SO WITH **GLADNESS**.

A CONSISTENTLY GRUMPY CHRISTIAN IS A CONTRADICTION OF TERMS. AFTER ALL, ONE OF THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS JOY. AND ONE DIMENSION OF JOY IS GLADNESS.

TONIGHT, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO BE JOYFUL ABOUT?

WOW, A BUNCH OF THINGS, BEGINNING WITH THE FACT THAT IF YOU ARE A CHRIST-FOLLOWER, YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN. YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE FREE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN, NOT BECAUSE YOU DESERVED IT OR EARNED IT, BUT BECAUSE OF GOD'S AMAZING GRACE.

JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS TO PAY THE PRICE FOR YOUR SINS, SO THAT BY FAITH, YOU CAN KNOW THE LORD, THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE, PERSONALLY, THROUGH THE NEW BIRTH.

NOT ONLY THAT. WHEN YOU'RE BORN AGAIN, THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES TO DWELL WITHIN YOU, AND SEALS YOU.

IF YOU HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO BE GLAD ABOUT, THESE TWO THINGS ARE ENOUGH! SAVED BY GRACE, SEALED BY THE SPIRIT. CAN I HEAR AN AMEN?

"Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing."

IN THIS PASSAGE, ALL BELIEVERS ARE INSTRUCTED TO COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING. THIS IS REINFORCED BY OTHER PASSAGES, SUCH AS:

Ephesians 5:19, which says, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Colossians 3:16, which says, "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."

LOOKING BACK AT YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK, DID YOU "SING" SPIRITUAL SONGS ALONE, PERHAPS TO YOURSELF, AND ALSO WITH OTHERS? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU SING WELL (WHICH THE LORD DOES NOT CARE ABOUT), THEN SING WHERE WE ALL TEND TO SOUND GOOD—IN THE SHOWER! WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THAT'S A GREAT WAY TO START YOUR DAY! YOU CAN ALSO SING IN YOUR CAR ON THE WAY TO WORK, AND OF COURSE, YOU CAN SING AT CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!

GODLY SINGING NOT ONLY UPLIFTS YOU, IT UPLIFTS THOSE AROUND YOU. YOU ARE LIKE A CHIRPING BIRD, SINGING AND FILLING THE AIR WITH GODLINESS AND GOODNESS. SO, MY EXHORTATION TO YOU TONIGHT IS TO **SING!**

AND IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN BORN AGAIN, THEN HONESTLY YOU REALLY CANNOT CHIRP THE WAY CHRISTIANS CAN—FULL OF GLADNESS IN YOUR HEART AND SOUL.

BUT IF YOU, WITH YOUR FREEWILL, CHOOSE CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL LORD AND SAVIOR TONIGHT, YOU CAN BEGIN TO CHIRP LIKE NEVER BEFORE...AND HAVE A SONG IN YOUR HEART FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS, THAT NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY!

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