

PREACHING WHAT WE PRACTICE

WHY DO WE SING?

ATTENTION: When the singing begins God's people praise Him!

- All different postures and looks
 - Some eyes are closed and others are open.
 - Some look down while others look up still others look around at the faces of fellow worshipers.
 - Some hands are raised and some are not.
 - Some faces are smiling - others very serious - still others sad
 - Some clap others sway side to side with the song's rhythm
- People sing from their own stories:
 - We sing the 16th Century song "**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,**" an one who has been hurt and challenged sings "**bulwark never failing.**"
 - We sing the 18th Century words of "**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessings**" and it is heartening us as we continually struggle singing, "**prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**"
 - We sing the 19th Century words of "**It Is Well With My Soul,**" the brother/sister struggling with discouragement over the fight against the lingering sins of personal struggle raise their voices to shout, "**My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought: my sin, not in part, but the whole is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**"
 - We sing the 21st Century words of "**In Christ Alone,**" and those being pulled in all directions yet a fighting to not be distracted from their serving Jesus in this busy life find a new ambition: "**In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.**"

ATTUNE:

- Christians sing because their new hearts can't help but echo the Word which has given them life.
 - Whether written in the 16th Century or today
 - Songs that echo Scripture.
 - Our songs should contain the words, paraphrases, and/or ideas of Scripture.
 - Singing is about listening as much as it's about singing. So

...*be filled by the Spirit: ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord*

Eph. 5:18b-19

- *speaking to one another* = While listening as well!
 - Brothers/sisters who share this journey speaking through song to each other!

BODY: WHY WE SING

WE SING BECAUSE CHRIST HAS CALLED US TO SING

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Col. 3:16 (Eph. 5:19)

- Three values of speaking to one another in poetry and melody.
 - **We Sing To Own and Affirm the Word**
 - Singing is one God-ordained way for Christians to respond to God's revelation.
 - It's how they raise their hand and say, "Yes, *I believe these truths with all my heart.*"
 - Singing = declares to all who can hear, "**We Believe!**"
 - ⁴⁹ Therefore I will give thanks to you among the nations, Lord;*
 - I will sing praises about your name.*
 - ⁵⁰ He gives great victories to His king;*
 - He shows loyalty to His anointed,*
 - to David and His descendants forever.*
 - **We Sing to Engage Our Emotions with God's Word**
 - When we sing, it's hard to remain emotionally disengaged.
 - Singing evokes and provokes the heart's joys, griefs, longings, hopes, and sorrows.
 - Singing is a way for God's people to grab His Word and align their emotions and affections to His.
 - It's not surprising that Paul would call on Christians to sing the psalms
 - By echoing the Psalms Christians express grief in godly fashion and sorrow, fear, and doubt.
 - **We Sing To Demonstrate and Build Unity**

- You can see in the singing the Psalms there was a demonstration of the unity of their hearts with one another.
- Consider this example:
 - ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever.
 - ² Let Israel say, "His faithful love endures forever."
 - ³ Let the house of Aaron say, "His faithful love endures forever."
 - ⁴ Let those who fear the Lord say, "His faithful love endures forever."

Psalm 118:1-4
- The context of Paul's command to sing is worth noticing as

¹⁴ Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
Colossians 3:14-16

- No doubt, this point can be combined with the last one.
 - Singing God's Word is how Christians connect their hearts together across the whole of biblical truth

PROJECT: Our Singing Is Important Because:

- **It Helps To Educate God's People**

teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
Colossians 3:16

- That is why we sing songs like:

"Tell It To Jesus"

"Are you weary, are you heavy hearted?"

Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus.

Are you grieving over joys departed?

Tell it to Jesus alone.

Do the tears flow down your cheeks unbidden?

Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus.

Have you sins that to men's eyes are hidden?

Tell it to Jesus alone.

Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus,

He is a Friend that's well known.

You've no other such a friend or brother,

Tell it to Jesus alone."

What can wash away my sins? -- Nothing but the Blood of Jesus"

- Singing teaches us about God and how to live the Christian life!

- **It Helps To Encourage God's People**

singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.
Colossians 3:16b

*What then, brothers and sisters? Whenever you come together, each one has a **hymn**, a teaching, a revelation, another tongue, or an interpretation.*

Everything is to be done for building up
1 Corinthians 14:26

- **It Helps Because It Exalts God**

...to the Lord.
Colossians 3:16c

*Sing to God! Sing praises to his name.
Exalt him who rides on the clouds—
his name is the Lord—and celebrate before him.*
Psalm 68:4