



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 43, No. 29, July 26 , 2016 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

Songs/Praise/Music Fill the Bible— WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? [Part 2]

TO UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF SOMETHING— DISCOVER IT'S FIRST USE! MUSIC/SINGING was FIRST done by angels unto God BEFORE man was ever created... and they have continued to sing praise unto God! EXAMPLES: (1) In Job 38:4, 7— GOD asks Job, *"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? ... **WHEN the morning stars sang together, and ALL the sons of God shouted for JOY?"*** Job 38:7 is in the context of a time prior to Lucifer's rebellion. **LUCIFER and all other angelic beings SANG AND SHOUTED FOR JOY** when God set in motion the laying of the earth's foundation! **(2)** When Isaiah saw the LORD in a vision of the Throne Room of the Universe, the seraphim were crying out PRAISE to God! **(3)** When Jesus came to earth, *"a multitude of the heavenly hosts"* were praising God! **(4) The last book of the Bible** rolls back the curtains of heaven and **angelic beings are continuously resounding with grand music of praise** to God Almighty and to the Lamb! This is clear Biblical evidence that **MUSIC is a creation of God for the purpose of PRAISE to GOD! MOREOVER, we must keep this in mind:**

Lucifer (now satan) and the fallen angels were originally created with

musical giftedness which they used day and night in praise to God. However, they rebelled against God. Thus, God kicked satan and these fallen angels out of heaven. Their sphere of influence was, and is to this day, upon the earth. (Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:3, 7-9) **THEY STILL HAVE THEIR MUSICAL GIFTEDNESS! Obviously**, they now use all of their abilities, (including musical ability), to generate worship for Lucifer or satan— rather than to God! **Lucifer knows and understands the power of music!** In light of the above realities, we dare not be blind to these truths:

1. Music that is not in tune with the purpose for which God created music cannot be neutral or harmless! **Music that does not** lead one to worship, honor, and serve Almighty God, must of necessity (sooner or later) lead one down a path of turning away from God, of growing cold toward God, of rebelling against God, and even of worshiping satan himself.

2. As an ex-angelic and ex-heavenly musician, satan inspires music of many different stripes as he seeks to divert worship from God to himself! **Thus, the airwaves of the world are filled with music— but not in praise to God!** Satan does not care what “flavor” of music you or I embrace, just so long as the music we choose does not openly and positively glorify God and the Lamb!

Music is powerful! Music communicates ideas and thoughts. **Music** can write these ideas and thoughts into our subconscious mind. **Music** can promote good or evil. **Music** is used in our modern world to stimulate sales in stores, to regulate the speed of your eating at restaurants, to increase work production, and much more. **As you listen to music, though you are not aware of it**, your entire body, including your nervous system, is constantly reacting to the sound. Variations in pitch, rhythmic patterns, tempo, and volume will affect pulse rate, blood pressure, respiration, and the function of various glands. These in turn will influence or even create a mood or elicit a physical response.

Some music can make you relax and help bring feelings of peace and contentment. **Other music** can invite frustration, nervousness, and even depression. Different musical sounds effect different parts of the body. A

high pitch can cause the larynx of the listener to tighten. Listening to marching music is bound to bring on some foot tapping! All of this comes as an automatic, subconscious response to music. **God anointed music** can dismiss demonic spirits. (1 Sam. 16:23) **Lucifer anointed music** accompanies sin. (Exodus 32:1-18)

MUSIC IS POWERFUL! Mike Quatro, a producer of Rock Concerts, said, *“Rock motivates you internally, gives you a sensual feeling. A girl can be turned on by the music. It releases her inhibitions. The beat of the drum has always been a factor. A girl realizes her own sexuality through the music.”*

Some years back ***Amazing Grace, O Happy Day, and The Lord’s Prayer*** were put in rock music renditions. They were played on rock stations with much acceptance! In fact, they were near the top of the charts for weeks with no one calling in being offended at the words of the songs! **Why no offense?** The rock music over-powered, masked, and hid the words of the songs. Such would not have been the case with these three songs, sung and played traditionally! Rolling Stone, the rock magazine, praised Bob Dylan’s 1980 album, *“Slow Train Coming”* as one of his best.

But what about the Christian content in songs on this album? The magazine said: ***“The words finally don’t matter after all.”*** Our secular culture does not mind (They even love!) “Christian Songs” that are set to various secular sounds, especially rock! Why? **Because they know that the music overpowers, masks, and hides the words!**

Whether it is music or something else, the idea of getting as close as we can to the world is not Biblical. There is a difference between the holy and the profane. But sadly, in music and in preaching today, it is very popular to let people keep their worldly ways plus promise heaven! Moreover, those who want to sound like the world, commonly write words to match their new sound!

Thus, much of the modern contemporary ‘Christian’ music has deleted a lot of the words that have characterized hymns, spiritual songs, and Psalms of the past— words like redemption, salvation, the blood of Christ, the cross, repentance, and a profuse amount of references to the various attributes and names of Holy God, etc. All of these grand words fill

godly Christian songs. **To read a song by Fanny Crosby, Charles Wesley, Isaac Watts, or John Newton is almost like reading Scripture, because their songs are so God focused!** In contrast, a lot of modern 'Christian' music tends to dwell more on us humans, our lives, our fears, problems, and how we feel... rather than dwelling on Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The names of God are often totally absent from modern 'Christian' songs.

Are there any helpful (non-legalistic) guidelines for Godly music?

1. The first principle, above all else is— PLEASING GOD!

2. Godly music can be loud but never lewd! (Psalm 100) Godly music can be joyful and jubilant— never jesting! (Ephesians 5:4)

3. Godly music must never overshadow the message or the words of the song! **Evidence for this statement?** All through the Bible, **God has preserved** the wonderful words to many songs of praise to God. **God has not preserved a single tune to which the songs were sung!** In the Bible we find praise to God accompanied by Bells, Brass, Cornets, Cymbals, Dulcimer, Flute, Harps (Harps are even found in heaven!!), Organ, Pipes, Psaltery, Ram's Horns, Sackbut, Sheminith, Tabrets, Timbrels, Trumpets, and Viols! **But not a single piece of music, not even one tune was preserved!**

4. Godly music will not violate any principle or truth found in I Corinthians 13; James 3:13-18; Philippians 4:8; I John 2:15-17. Godly music and the words of a psalm, hymn, or spiritual song will not be in "spirit vs. flesh" conflict. (Galatians 5:17)!

REMEMBER: A God-saturated life can/will produce and present music that overcomes demons. A Self-saturated life will produce and perform music to match rebellion against God. (1 Sam. 16:23; Exodus 32:1-18)

5. With Godly music the words will be doctrinally in line with the Bible. The focus will be God-centered and God-glorifying and not man-centered. The music will fit the words according to concepts of Galatians 5:17; Godly music will draw attention and praise to God. Godly music will edify and build you up to live a holy, Christ-honoring life. **An excellent example** is the "Song of Moses" (Exodus 15) and the "Song of Moses and the Lamb" (Revelation 15:3-4). These songs, (as are many of the songs throughout

the Psalms), are often dealing with historical situations where various people are much involved. **However, the predominant emphasis is always that of profuse praise to God Almighty and to the Lamb!** SHOULDN'T OUR MUSIC TASTES AND PRACTICES BE DOMINATED BY MUSIC WHICH CLEARLY OFFERS PRAISE TO GOD?

GOD LOVES MUSIC! This comes as no surprise, because God created music for the purpose of giving unto Himself the worship and praise that is due Him! He is Almighty God. He does not need to be praised in order to help His self- image! He is not depressed. Our praise does not add anything to Him. **It is simply that He is God! He is worthy.** And when we praise Him by means of music and song, we are giving unto God the praise of which He is worthy. And by the way, **such God centered praise will** build us up in the most holy faith! And such experiences bring even more praise unto His holy name!

SO, the Word of God cries out, "...COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING." (Psalm 100, Psalm 95, 96) *"The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty: He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, **He will joy over thee with singing!**"* (Zephaniah 3:17) **GOD LOVES MUSIC!** Most often the music revealed in Scripture revolves around the Story of Redemption and the glories of God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. **Thus, Christian, it is no surprise that God rejoices over you, a trophy of His grace!** In fact, Jesus, (who is in the midst of His churches, Revelation 1-3), sings praises to God! (Hebrews 2:12)

GODLY MUSIC CAN Move God To Manifest Himself! (2 Chronicles 5:11-14) **In the world,** a concert may be looked upon as secular or "Christian" but in either case, the music is OFTEN sung and/or played **so as to entertain the listener.** Talent is showcased. Music "stars" are created. Musicians are thronged and worshiped! It's really no mystery as to why a fair number of "music stars" started their careers in church!

Sadly, instead of being schooled in the true worship of God, it was in church that they first got their egos stroked as they were praised for their talent in a church service!

GODLY MUSIC IS NEVER ABOUT showing off talent or about entertaining. Godly music is all about worshiping God, praising Him, pleasing Him; and about ministering unto Him. (Exodus 28:41) With Christian music, there is no place for the fleshly show and exaltation of “artists” or “stars”. Rather, music is to be done for the glory of God and presented as humble and holy service to God.

For it is not talent or giftedness that brings the manifest presence of God or that breaks the yoke of sin and sets the captives free! RATHER, IT IS THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
(Zec. 4:6)

Meditate deeply upon these Scriptures, **for when sanctified servants of God play and/or sing music— God shows up!** (2 Chronicles 5:11-14; Joshua 6:2-5, 15,20; 2 Chronicles 20:1-30; 1 Chron. 25:1,3,6,7; 1 Samuel 10:5-6; 2 Kings 3:15-16a; Psalm 22:3; 1 Cor. 14:1-3; Acts 16:25-26) And, as some of the above Scriptures show, the capacity to hear and receive specific and relevant truth from God is also greatly enhanced by the awesome power of Godly music!

GODLY MUSIC and SPIRITUAL WARFARE! In spiritual warfare we know that we are to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-12) and bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Jesus Christ, (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). **But in Psalm 149:1-9, we have a scene of giving praise to God with high volume and with authority.** The specific occasion of this prophetic Psalm is when Messiah comes back to punish all evil doers! Yes, that will be a time for great praise to God! (See Rev. 16:1-7)

APPLICATION FOR US: Let us go forth as strong ‘**PRAISERS**’ of God into the many spiritual battles which we face! **Music and the SHOUT of victory tumbled the walls of Jericho! And till Jesus comes, such up front praise will still do wonders against all manner of walls of spiritual opposition! In fact, throughout the history of the church during times when the saints of God have been persecuted and even put to death— GODLY MUSIC in PRAISE TO GOD was critical to being empowered to stand fast in the faith without fear or compromise.**

When Jehosaphat, (2 Chronicles 20:1-30), was surrounded by enemies on every side, he cried out to God, *“We don’t know what to do; but our eyes are on you, LORD!”* The desperately needed wisdom came from one of the anointed singers unto the LORD! What was the Word of God for that critical hour?— put the Choir out in front of the army and have them singing, ***“Praise the LORD; for His mercy endureth forever!”*** And when this music began to sound forth, GOD SHOWED UP and smote the enemy!

PLEASE UNDERSTAND: The world’s music would not have helped! **Modern ‘Christian’ rock, or contemporary concerts, and/or Southern Gospel entertainment** (All mixed in with plenty of “clean” jokes because the entertainers want to show that it is fun to be a Christian!)— listening to such performances from these kinds of favorite stars would not have done the job!

Sadly, much normal church music would not have helped much either.
WHY?

BECAUSE, FOR GOD TO SHOW UP IN MIGHTY DELIVERANCE POWER, there must be “SINGERS UNTO THE LORD”, who from their hearts *Praise the Beauty of God’s holiness!*

The Issue Is Always Worship! And Our Music Has a Way of Matching the WHO or WHAT We Really Worship! (Exodus 32:15-18) *PLEASE Read those verses carefully!* **REMEMBER: Joshua**, (who had not been trained in Egypt as Moses had), ***thought the sounds were sounds like the torment and horror of war!*** **HOWEVER, MOSES KNEW it was the noise of singing— Israel had music to match their sin! My music reveals and matches my heart!**

Question: *Is “my music” an evidence of New Birth, of Revival, of loving, and of worshiping God? OR, is my music* a sign of backsliding or even lostness?

REALITY: “MY MUSIC” MOVES ME! — EITHER TOWARD LOVING, WORSHIPING AND SERVING ALMIGHTY GOD... OR TOWARD LOVING, WORSHIPING AND SERVING THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL!

[A number of sources used in writing this article, including, **Satan's Music Exposed**, by Lowell Hart; **The Rebirth of Music** by LeMar Boschman; **Doorways to Discipleship** by Winkie Pratney; **Jesus Person Maturity Manuel** by David Wilkerson]

Grace and Peace to all in Christ! James Bell

www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Contact Bradley at 615-804-3054.

WEDNESDAYS: ☐ **6:30pm— Children** Ministry/activities; ☐ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— (For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)

☐ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE**... Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Meets EVERY OTHER TUESDAY: **The Epistle of James**, // **NEXT: August 2 @ 11:00am**; Cindy Bell teaching. [Front door open at 10:45 till 11:05am; or come in Iron Steps side entrance!]

MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! {Study in **ROMANS**}... **Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning...** walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SUNDAY SERVICES, July 31:

9:30am- Sunday School

10:45am- Worship Service / Children's Church

NOON 'Covered-dish' Lunch

6:00pm- Sunday EVENING— Sharing Scriptures, Songs, Hymns, PRAISE! (An EVENING OF SCRIPTURE and PRAISE UNTO THE LORD!)

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!*

For the 2016-2017 school term we are offering Second through Twelfth grades. Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden— they must be protected.***

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>