



**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 44, No.9, February 28 , 2017 / 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; and 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.”***

WHEN WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD, Part 3

In Genesis, as the story of creation is unveiled, God simply proclaimed again and again, ***“It is good!”*** But, as we learn in Job 38:4, 7— all the angels responded to God’s grand creative acts with ***SINGING AND SHOUTING FOR JOY!*** (See Psalm 19:1-6) One of the questions God asked Job was, ***“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 38:4, 7)

Many scholars believe that Job 38:7 is speaking of a time prior to Lucifer’s rebellion. The universe was still united in perfect harmony. There was not one dissenting voice! Lucifer and all other angelic beings ***SANG AND SHOUTED FOR JOY*** when God set in motion the laying of the earth’s foundation! **But regardless and without question**, angelic beings are seen thorough out Scripture SOUNDING FORTH PRAISE and **MUSIC** in joyful worship of Almighty God. Such was Lucifer’s **former** occupation!

WHEN Isaiah saw the LORD in a vision of the Throne Room of the Universe, the seraphim were crying out PRAISE to God! (Isaiah 6) **WHEN** Jesus came to earth, *“a multitude of the heavenly hosts”* were praising

God! (Luke 2) **AND** in the last book of the Bible, *THE REVELATION*, the HOLY SPIRIT rolls back the curtains of heaven and we see and hear **angelic beings continuously resounding with grand music of praise** to God Almighty and to the Lamb! **THE POINT?** MUSIC and the WORSHIP of God go together! **MUSIC is a creation of God.** There is NO revelation in the Bible as to any other purpose of music than for the purpose of the WORSHIP OF THE ALMIGHTY, TRIUNE GOD!

Before his rebellion, Lucifer, like all other angelic beings worshiped God through music. However, at some point Lucifer began to desire worship for himself. In arrogance and pride he rebelled, (Isaiah 14:13-14). Tragically, a full one third of the angelic hosts joined Lucifer's rebellion. God expelled satan and the 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) **WHAT'S THE POINT?** Lucifer (now satan) and the fallen angels were originally created with musical giftedness which they used day and night in praise to God. But they rebelled against God. They are now working in the sphere of the earth.

THEY STILL HAVE THEIR PRIMARY GIFTEDNESS— MUSIC!

But obviously, they would not use it for the purpose of praise to God! **Obviously,** they now use all of their abilities, (including musical ability), to generate worship for Lucifer or satan! It is critically important to understand that **Lucifer knows and understands the power of music!** **REALITY:** By the means of "the music of the world" satan stirs the masses physically, emotionally, and spiritually for his own selfish and evil purposes!

1. Music that is not composed, presented, and in tune with the purpose for which God created music cannot be 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. **Lucifer and fallen angels inspire 'fallen music' to create worship for the fallen Lucifer!**

2. Remember: Satan offered Jesus the kingdoms of this world, if Jesus would only worship him! Satan is not limited to one strategy.

However, as an ex-heavenly musician, without question satan inspires music of many different stripes as he seeks to divert worship from God to himself!

3. The airwaves of the world are filled with music— but not in praise to God! There is music for every age group, every taste, and every culture. It is music that promotes the world and the flesh. Satan is behind **any music**, (including much religious music), **that does not** move us to worship, adore, and serve Almighty God and the Lamb! **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. 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! 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! **You and I may be ignorant of the various powers of music, but many**

producers of music are not! 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.”* **The Beatles, mild by today’s rock music, said,** *“Our music is capable of causing emotional instability, disorganized behavior, rebellion, and even revolution.”*

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 religious 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!** When we combine holy words with fleshly, secular sounds we produce confusion.

What is a secular sound? That’s an easy question! **Just take a little “field trip”** to flesh-feeding concerts, bars, night clubs and get an ear full! There is a reason **they won’t be playing a ‘traditional’ Church rendition of “What Can Wash Away My Sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!** *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* (Gal. 5:17)

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 Guidelines for Godly Music?

1. The first principle of above all else is— PLEASING GOD! The Bible has many references and examples of music/songs/praise. If our passion is to please GOD... then get in the Word and the Holy Spirit will give clear instructions!

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! **REALITY:** 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— **EVEN SO, not a single piece of music, not even one tune was preserved!** THE VERBAL MESSAGE IS SUPREME and must not be overshadowed!

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. (1Samuel 16:23)

**** A Self-saturated life** will produce and perform music to match rebellion against God. (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 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! All Praise to God 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 usually sung and/or played **so as to entertain the listener.** Talent is showcased. Music “stars” are created. Musicians are thronged and worshipped! 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 worshipping 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!

*[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]*

BELOVED! LET US GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD!

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— Studies in the Gospel of Luke! ... NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, *March 14, 2017* @ 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! *{STUDYING the Epistle of First John}* AT THE back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning, walk forward, coffee & biscuits WAITING!

Sunday Services For March: March 8, 12, 19, 26

March 8— 9:30am - Sunday School // 10:45am - Worship Service

Noon Covered Dish meal / 1:00pm Afternoon Service

March 12— 9:30am - Sunday School // 10:45am - Worship Service

Noon Covered Dish meal / 1:00pm Afternoon Service

March 19— 9:30am - Sunday School // 10:45am - Worship
 Service INCLUDING The LORD'S SUPPER
NO Noon Covered Dish meal / NO 1:00pm Afternoon Service
EVENING HOME GROUPS

March 26— 9:30am - Sunday School // 10:45am - Worship
 Service
Noon Covered Dish meal /

5:30pm - 7:30pm FAITHFUL MEN'S MONTHLY
 FELLOWSHIP/STUDY/EQUIPPING: