

## In Spirit and Truth – Singing Col. 3:16-17

Thesis: To encourage more participation in our singing.

Introduction:

The purpose of this lesson is not about singing with instrumental music; but rather we will focus on or command to sing.

Throughout this lesson, we will be looking back at the Old Testament and notice some of the similarities between our singing and theirs. The reason for this is the fact that there are only 12 passages in the New Testament that refer to singing.

\*\*\*“It has been said that while the Bible is God’s expression to man, the hymnal is man’s expression to God.” (W. D. Jeffcoat, Gospel Advocate, April 1, 1982, pg. 199)

### I. We are to be filled with the word of Christ (3:16).

#### A. The word of Christ is valuable.

1. The words of Christ are eternal life.
  - a. **Jn. 6:63** - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.
  - b. **Jn. 6:68** - But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."
  - c. **Jn. 8:51** - Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.
2. Even those who heard the teachings of Jesus knew that His words were valuable.
  - a. **Mt. 7:28-29** - And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, {29} for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.
  - b. **Jn. 7:46** (when the elders and Pharisees were trying to figure out who Jesus was) - The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"

#### B. If we are going to be filled with the word of Christ, we must continually study that word.

1. Because the words of Christ are so important, we must study them.
2. **Rom. 10:17** - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
3. **Acts 17:11** - These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
4. **II Tim. 2:15** - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

#### C. When we are filled with the words of Christ, they are displayed in our singing.

## II. We are commanded to sing (3:16).

### A. We are to sing to “one another.”

1. One of the problems in worship (both ours and at other places) is the fact that everyone does not fulfill God’s command to sing.
  - a. God has made it very clear that He wants us to sing.
  - b. Eph. 5:19 - “Speaking to one another...”
2. Singing is an active command.
  - a. Our singing must be congregational.
  - b. Choirs and choruses are necessarily excluded by this command.
3. While many in the church would not allow a piano or choir in the worship service, they also do not sing; making our singing not “congregational.”
  - a. The very ones that would stand solidly against a piano or a chorus in worship are sometimes the ones that refuse to lift their voices in song to the Father.
  - b. At best, this is not fulfilling the command of God.
  - c. At worst, this is hypocritical.
4. Note some excuses as to why people do not sing.
  - a. “I can’t sing well.”
    - 1) Remember, God says to sing “to one another.”
    - 2) God says to make a joyful noise (Ps. 100:1).
  - b. “I want to hear others sing.”
    - 1) Again, the command is not to listen, but to sing.
5. For those that are capable, and do not sing, to him it is sin!
  - a. It is impossible to sing to “one another” if the other is not singing.

### B. There is a purpose in our singing.

1. We teach one another.
  - a. This was a part of the reason for singing in the Old Testament.
    - 1) Ex. 15:1-19
      - a) After Israel crosses the Red Sea, Moses and the children of Israel sing a song to God.
      - b) It was a song to praise God, but it was also a song to remind and teach Israel about what God had done for them.
    - 2) I Sam. 18:6-7
      - a) David and Saul have just returned home from the slaughter of the Philistine” when the women began to sing a song about David.
      - b) I Sam. 18:7 - “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”
      - c) This song was used later and it taught others of what David had done.
        - i. I Sam. 21:10-11 – Achish, the king of Gath, knew of David because of this song.

- ii. **I Sam. 29:1-5** – The Philistines reject the help of David in fighting Israel because they had learned of what David had done through this song.

**b. Notice some songs and what they teach us.**

- 1) “Trust and Obey” – obedience to God.
- 2) “The Old Rugged Cross” – death of Jesus.
- 3) “Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All” – heaven

2. We admonish one another.

a. This was also a part of the reason for singing in the Old Testament.

1) **Deut. 31:19-22**

- a) Moses teaches Israel a song that warns them about following other gods.
- b) This warning was put into a song so that Israel could easily remember it.

2) **Deut. 31:30-32:43**

- a) Moses teaches Israel a song that warns them about not following the commands of God.
- b) **Deut. 32:45-47** - Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, {46} and He said to them: “Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe-- all the words of this law. {47} For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.”

**b. Notice some songs that we sing that give us a warning.**

- 1) Pure songs of admonition are difficult to find because of our emphasis on positive things.
- 2) Many of these songs also have a great deal of teaching in them.
- 3) “Work For the Night Is Coming” – warns of death and the end of time.
- 4) “Without Him” – warns that without Christ, we are nothing.
- 5) “Where Could I Go?” – warns that no one can help except Christ.

**C. We are told what types of songs to sing.**

- 1. There are three types of songs that we sing.
  - a. Psalms – From the book of Psalms, a poem of devotion.
  - b. Hymns – A song of praise addressed to God.
  - c. Spiritual Songs – Songs of any kind, provided they are spiritual.
- 2. The main point of these songs is that they are all to be spiritual in nature.

### III. Our singing is directed toward God (3:16-17).

#### A. Our songs are directed to God.

1. We sing “with grace in our hearts to the Lord.”
  - a. Eph. 5:19 - singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.
  - b. While our singing teaches and admonishes others, it is not directed towards men.
2. God is the focus of our singing.
  - a. There are over 100 references throughout the Bible that are either examples or commands to sing to the Lord
  - b. I Chr. 16:8-10, 23-25, 34-35 (David’s song to God when the ark of God was brought into the tabernacle) - Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! {9} Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! {10} Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! {23} Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. {24} Declare His glory among the nations, his wonders among all peoples. {25} For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; he is also to be feared above all gods. {34} Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. {35} And say, “Save us, O God of our salvation; gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise.”
  - c. Ps. 66:1-2 - Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! {2} Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious.
  - d. Ps. 95:1-2 - Oh come, let us sing 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.
  - e. Ps. 105:2 - Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works!

#### B. Our songs are to be filled with praise to the Lord.

1. Ps. 7:17 (first reference of singing in Psalms) - I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.
2. Ps. 9:1-2, 11 - I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. {2} I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. {11} Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people.
3. Ps. 100:1-5 - Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! {2} Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. {3} Know that the LORD, He 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 into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. {5} For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.

**Conclusion:**