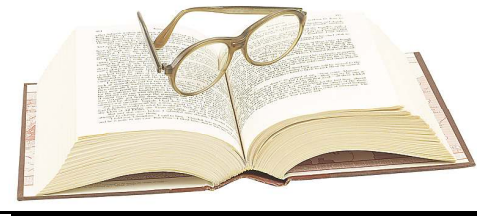


MESSAGES FROM WAYNE'S STUDY



DO I HEAR SINGING? # 1 2 3

#0006

Twice Paul wrote about ***speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord***, Ephesians 5:19 (NKJV) and ***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***. Colossians 3:16 (NKJV) When something is mentioned twice (or more often) in the Scriptures, we should take notice. You should

take notice that all of the verbs present in these two passages are in the Imperative! Paul is commanding that this should be done. First, we are to “speak to one another” and then “teaching and admonishing one another” I bet you thought we sang for the “fun of it!”

Music is part of God’s creation. He made our ears and brains so we might appreciate the sounds. Hence, we need to be singing: (1) psalms ψαλμος (psalmos), (2) hymns ὕμνος (humnos), and (3) spiritual songs (“spiritual” with “songs” implied). These are what we are supposed to be “singing” ᾄδω (ado). Twice, in Revelation, we find those present as “they sang a new song.” What the new song might be is not the subject here. I am concerned with what we must be singing now.

Paul practiced what he preached. ***But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*** Acts 16:25 (NKJV) What kinds of music was Paul referring to? There have been many eloquent and majestic pieces of music written, one of the most famous being Handel’s “Messiah.” The first audience to hear the composition -- in Dublin in 1742 --gave it the greatest ovation in the city's history. Weeks later, London heard it for the first time, and again it was a triumph. The King was so impressed during the Hallelujah Chorus that he rose to his feet -- a custom that still prevails.

While this is to be included under the category of “Psalms,” it is not the type of music you and I would sing. Most of the times we sing “hymns” (praises set to music.) Often we will sing a hymn written by a woman - Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) Fanny Crosby was probably the most prolific hymnist in history. Though blinded by an incompetent doctor at six weeks of age, she wrote over 8,000 hymns. About her blindness, she said: *“It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me.”* Most of what is in our hymnal are hymns (big surprise!).

There are spiritual songs to sing as well. You don’t need an orchestra like you would for the Messiah. You don’t need an organ, piano, or other instrument like you would for a hymn. You can sing these “a capella.” I have in my library a copy of “Youth Sings” which I have had since my High School days. We would sing these wonderful chouses (“spiritual songs”) at camp, on the bus to camp, etc. Choruses such as *“Deep and Wide,” “Do Lord,”* and *“Down in the Deepest Sea.. “Down in the depths of the deepest sea, lie all the sins once charged to me; buried for time and eternity, Down in the deepest sea.”* ” I hate to admit that my friends (and I) changed a few of the words - *“lie all the sins once charged to me”* was changed to *“lie all the girls who rejected me.”* (Forgive me, Lord!)

The Lord has given us music to enjoy, to praise Him, and, according to Paul, ***teaching and admonishing*** one another! One of the great thing about songs is that the message is more easily learned than if it was just plain text! Music is an excellent teaching tool, especially in teaching young children.

Fine!