





Why do we Sing?

He Gave Me a Song



Singing chants to Jesus

- ▶ Pliny the Younger (ca. 111 A.D.) in a letter to Emperor Trajan regarding how to treat those who worshiped Jesus of Nazareth as a god.
- ▶ What Christians were guilty of...
- ▶ “They asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and **sing responsively a hymn to Christ** as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath, not to do some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adultery, not falsify their trust, nor to refuse to return a trust when called upon to do so.”



Examples of Christians Singing?

- ▶ Interestingly, there's only one description of Christians singing in the NT: Paul and Silas in prison in Philippi in Acts 16
 - ▶ This doesn't count the singing John saw in the vision in Revelation.
 - ▶ Or the singing of a hymn by Jesus and His disciples
- ▶ In fact, there are not *examples* of Christians singing in an assembly.
 - ▶ We can know that this happened from several passages we'll look at later, but we never actually see it happening.




Why Do We Sing?

- Revelation 5:9 **“And they *sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 “You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”**



Why Do We Sing?

- ▶ Revelation 14:3 **“And they *sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.”**
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Why Do We Sing?

- ▶ **Revelation 15:3 – 4** And they *sang the **song of Moses**, the bond-servant of God, and the **song of the Lamb**, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! 4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."



Singing is a Response to God

- To his greatness
- To his goodness
- To his unchanging nature
- To his concern for those who are his
- “Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the **fruit of lips** that acknowledge his name.” (Hebrews 13:15)

New Testament Reasons to Sing

- ▶ 1 Cor. 14: 13 “Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What am I to do? **I will pray** with my *spirit*, but I will pray with my *mind* also; **I will sing** praise with my *spirit*, but I will sing with my *mind* also. 16 Otherwise, if you **give thanks with your spirit**, how can anyone in the position of an **outsider** say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?”
- ▶ **1 Cor. 14:26** “What then, brothers? **When you come together, each one has a hymn**, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”



New Testament Reasons to Sing

- ▶ Ephesians 5:17 “Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing **one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”



New Testament Reasons to Sing

- ▶ Colossians 3:14 “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the **word of Christ** dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”



Observations regarding Singing

- **Spirit**

- Person/Personal

- **Mind**

- If we're not understanding with and engaging our mind, our singing is undermined

- **Heart**

- "With thankfulness in your hearts"



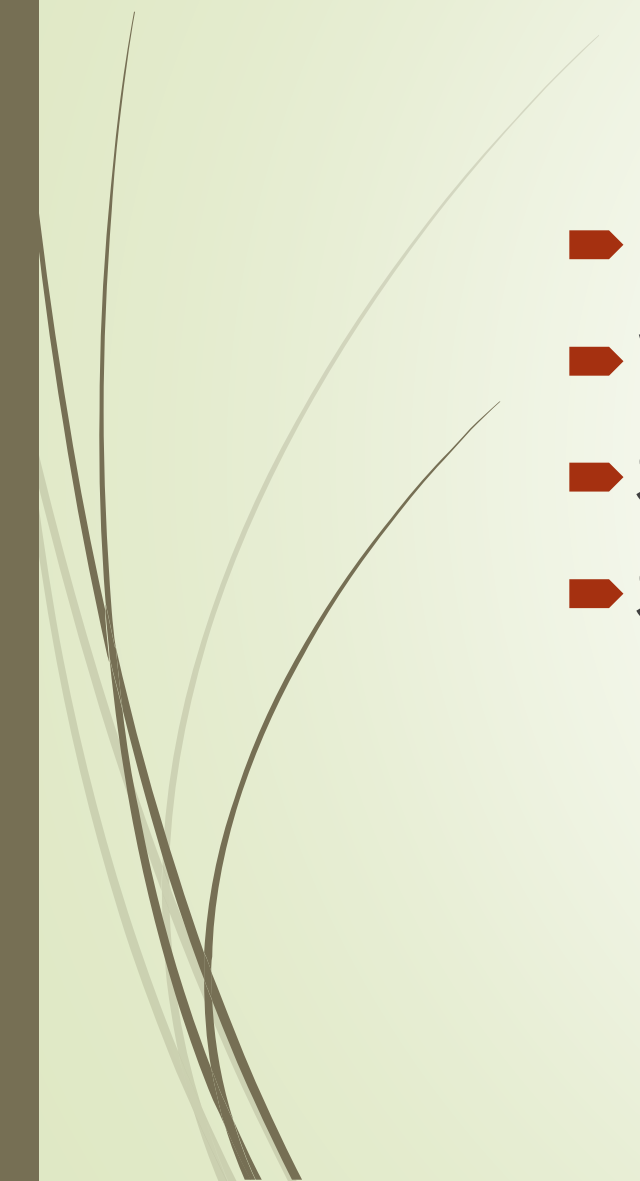
Observations regarding Singing

- One Another

- Singing is something we do in response to the Lord and is an important part of our communication with him
- But it is also part of our **relationship with each other**

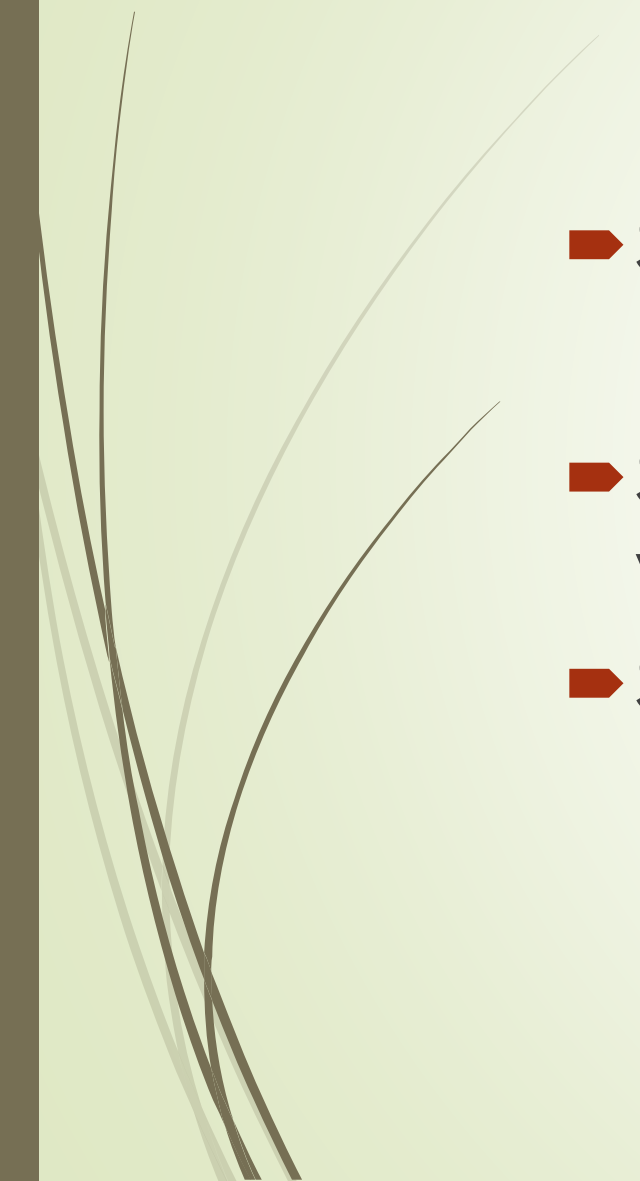


Why is Singing Important?

- Because God said so
 - Words and Music Matter
 - Singing aids memory – retention
 - Singing teaches us – family – friends – children
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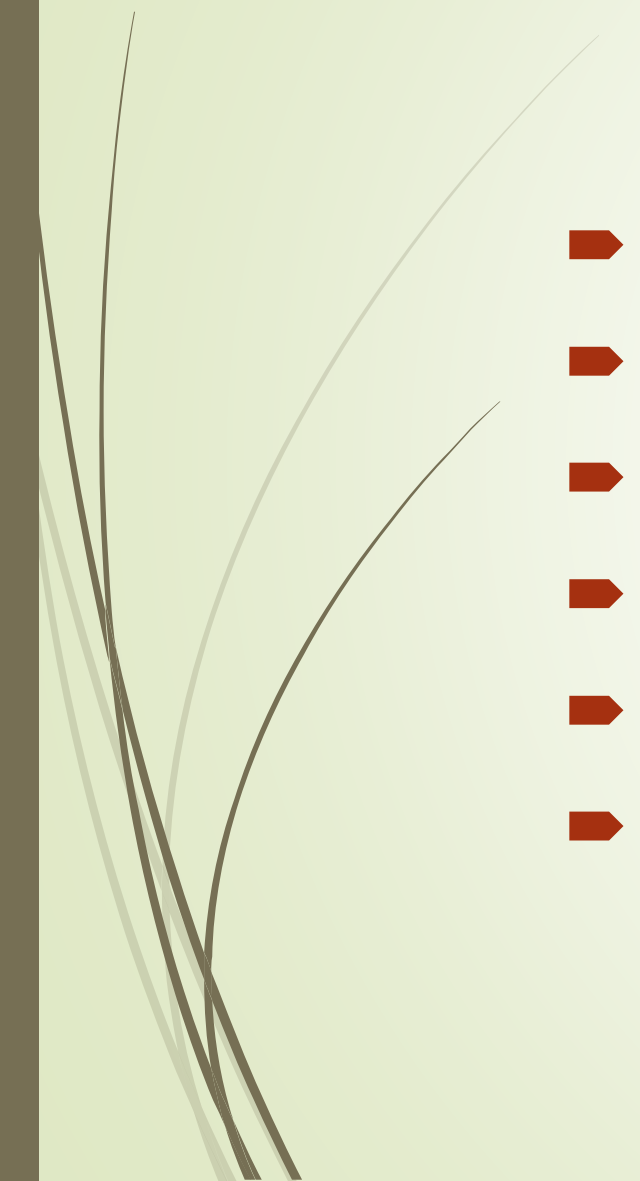


Why is Singing Important?

- Singing connects us to the truth
 - Combines emotion and intellect
 - Singing connects us to one another in powerful ways
 - Singing in harmony and unison requires us to listen
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Why is Singing Important?

- “I love to tell the story”
 - “I love you Lord”
 - “I believe in Jesus”
 - “How Great Thou Art”
 - “Jesus Let Us Come To Know You”
 - “Lord Help Me Rise Up Again”
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Why is Singing Important?

- Singing calls upon us to be vulnerable
 - Be with me Lord
 - Healing in its Wings
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