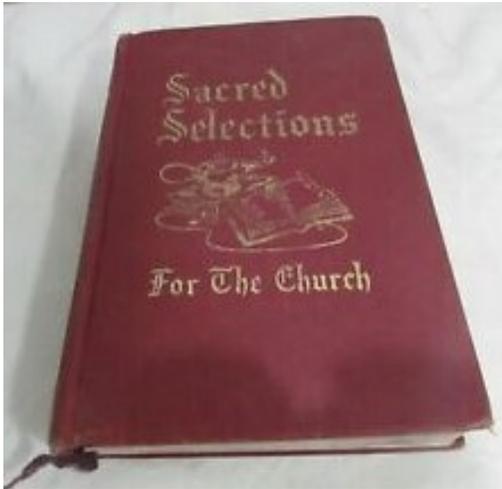


Listening When I Should Have Been Singing (But I Wanted To)



by: Bill Brandstatter

This past Tuesday my wife and I attended a gospel meeting at a nearby congregation. It started like most. There were some songs, a prayer, then the preaching. I was asked to lead the opening prayer. But I couldn't. I was hoarse due to some allergies. As a matter of fact, I could hardly speak. So, I couldn't sing either. As a result, I just listened to the singing.

While listening I learned some very important lessons. First, the singing doesn't have to be spectacular or showy in order to be good. So much "gospel singing" today is done as a performance. The singing at this meeting was simple. The singers were not professionals. Yet, it was beautiful.

Second, I thought of how an instrument would destroy the meaning of the songs. Is it any wonder that Paul wrote: "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19)? What Paul wrote was not just his opinion. It was a command from God (1 Cor. 14:37). He repeats the message in Col. 3:16. God knew that singing without the instrument is the best way for songs in church services to be sung.

Third, I felt bad I couldn't sing. How many people can sing but don't. Some will say, "I can't carry a tune in a bushel basket." It really doesn't make any difference, does it? God wants us to sing. When a congregation sings, you hear the whole group, not just the individual. The singing is to be done with the spirit, and with understanding (1 Cor. 14:15). Whether or not the singing is on key or exact is a mute point. We think it has to be just right because of our entertainment mindset. God hears the song that comes from the heart.

I was bothered that I couldn't sing last Tuesday night. However, I was glad I was able to learn some lessons. Actually, I already knew them. What happened just helped me to again see God's divine directive to SING.

Bill Brandstatter worships with the church of Christ in Vienna, IL

Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Tom
Song Leader: Myron
Opening Hymn:
260 – Love Divine
Opening Prayer
Ray
Hymn:
26 – In The Garden
Scripture Reading:
Larry
Ephesians 5:8-21
Hymn:
293 – Night, With Ebon Pinion
Lord's Supper:
Dale & Ryan
Hymn:
25 – The Beautiful Garden of Prayer
Sermon: Tom
Invitation Hymn:
120 – The Solid Rock
Closing Hymn:
274-a – Jesus Loves Me
Closing Prayer:
Mark

PRAYER LIST

- *Pat was moved from the hospital to the rehab center this week.
- *Mark is visiting Ben in DC this weekend.
- *Juanita's sister Betty.
- *Mary and her family.
- *Nina's brother, James.
- *Robert and Sara
- *Pat and Ron.
- *Juanita and her family.
- *Larry and Ruth
- *Dale, his mother and his cousin Jayna and her family. His friend Zarna and her family.
- *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
- *Our congregation
- *Our Veterans
- *Our Nation

CALENDAR

- Dec. 8—Bible Study 10 am
Dale
- Dec. 8—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Dec. 8—Potluck
- Dec. 9—b. Megan
- Dec. 9—b. Richard
- Dec. 11—Bible Study 7 pm
Rob
- Dec. 15—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Dec. 15—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Dec. 22—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Dec. 22—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom
- Dec. 29—Bible Study 10 am
Mark
- Dec. 29—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Tom

Answer to Puzzle: speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord

Walk in Wisdom

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 5:8-21

BIRTH	BLESS	BREAKS	CEDARS
DIVIDES	ENTHRONED	EVERYONE	FLAMES
FLOOD	FORESTS	FOREVER	GLORY
KADESH	LEBANON	MAJESTY	MAKES
MIGHTY	PEACE	PEOPLE	POWERFUL
SHAKES	SIRION	SPLINTERS	STRENGTH
STRIPS	TEMPLE	THUNDERS	VOICE
WATERS	WILDERNESS	YOUNG	

C S A L U F T I U R F N U S P E A F
R I S C S H A M E F U L G K I N G E
T E R E C F I N D I N G N O O N E L
A N D C N E N O I T A P I S S I D L
O T H E U S P E R E V E T A H W S O
R I N P E M U T S A L M T S S A P W
N D H Y M M S O A N S A I A G N I S
F I L L E D I P E B D S M L N P R H
E X P O S E D N E T L I B W I R I I
R A T H E R E I G C H E U A H T T P
U N D E R S T A N D T G S Y T H S R
U A L S U E O E A N N L I S E S I E
G S S A R I R R N I G I Y R E N R H
G A C C N D K D V M A K E N I N H T
G E E M L N E I L O D F D Y I N C A
B S Y I E O G U R H O O E A R T T F
O T H S K N A H T R O R E H T O N A
H C S E L O R D E G M A N I F E S T

Hidden Message: _____

People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing. That's why we recommend it daily.

SUNDAY: Bible Class — 10:00 am; Worship — 11:00 am; Evening — 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 pm
Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org
E-mail: church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com
Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com