

Congregational Singing

Why sing? Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 inform us that singing was used by the first century Christians. Singing is a requirement for acceptable worship of God. There is no argument there, but there is still the question, "Why sing?" Why would the Lord want mankind to sing? The following are some possible thoughts concerning why singing was specified.

Singing Unifies

Years ago, prisoners were used to maneuver great ships at sea. Often, these men would sing to unify their efforts. Soldiers have used songs to unify their marching efforts. In this country, people from all walks of life are united in mind and spirit by singing the national anthem. It is difficult, if not impossible, to sing from the heart with those we do not like. Singing unifies a group. The Lord's body must be unified!

Singing Excites the Heart

In the secular world, songs bring feelings of love, hate, happiness, remorse, etc. Singing about Christ's love for us brings peace to our minds. Singing about His death brings remorse and guilt. Some hymns remind us of the brevity of life and others of the amount of work to be done. Singing should excite our hearts and encourage us to go forward in living a Christ-centered life.

Singing Teaches

How did you learn your ABCs? How did you learn the books of the Bible? How did you learn the names of the twelve apostles? Some of us were taught by singing songs containing that information. Could someone visit our assembly and learn about Christ by listening to us sing? I would hope so. Could he learn about Christian living by singing the words to certain hymns? I believe so. What about the Lord's Supper, prayer, the Gospel, or Heaven? Could we teach others while singing songs about these subjects? Surely, the answer is yes. Even though there is time in our assembly for a preacher to teach, great lessons are taught during the time we spend singing together.

Singing Edifies

People in the advertising business use lyrics put to a jingle to persuade the listeners. Have you ever wanted to buy something because an advertisement enticed you with a catchy song? Many hymns strengthen us and encourage us to act inwardly in our hearts and minds and outwardly in our daily activities. We need to edify each other. Singing in our assembly is one way to do that. Singing as a congregation benefits Christians today just as it did in the first century. Let us sing for unity. Let us sing to excite our hearts and the hearts of those who hear our singing. Let us sing to teach and edify. Let us be involved in the song service just as we are when we address God in prayer or commune together.

- Author Unknown

(via Beacon, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL)

To sing is to pray twice. - Augustine

News Notes

NEW ADDRESS: Herman & Karen McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

BIBLE MEDITATIONS: Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m. on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Resumes this Tuesday, Oct, 14th, 9:00-11:00 a.m. All ladies welcome.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Resumes this Thursday, Oct. 16th, 11:00 a.m.

PANTRY: Sweet potatoes.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Brian Haught (Skip's brother), Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). *Serra Manor, Weirton:* Jean Haught (Skip's mother). *Fox, Chester:* Mary Johnson. *Elsewhere:* Herman McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

GOSPEL MEETINGS & LECTURES

Hanoverton	Oct. 12-16	John Keith
WV School of Preaching, Moundsville ...	Oct. 19-23	Different Speakers
Barnesville (E. Main)	Nov. 2- 6	Wes McAdams

The Ultimate Sacrifice

David R. Kenney

For a person to give up his or her life for another is sometimes referred to as **the ultimate sacrifice** for good reason. There is no greater sacrifice a person could make for another. Paul wrote about those who would be less than willing to die for someone they knew, but then he pointed out a contrast. Jesus was willing to die for enemies, for sinners (Romans 5:6-8). Consider what one accomplishes by forfeiting one's life for another person. What would make someone do this for an opponent? Sometimes the sacrifice is balanced with what benefit it provides. Saving a life by one's life is certainly the ultimate sacrifice made by that individual. However, consider how many lives (souls) that will be eternally saved by the sacrifice of Jesus. So, Jesus' sacrifice was **the** ultimate sacrifice in at least two ways. First, He gave up His life. Second, He gave up His life so all may have the opportunity for eternal life. Without taking away from those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, how would one classify the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for all who will obey Him?

- Gospel Gazette Online -