

Church Music

Heb 12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve (offer religious service) God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: Heb 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

Some fundamental principles stated

- Music is more than simply a vehicle for delivering lyrics: the music is not “neutral”
- The quality of worship is not determined by the types of instruments used
- Music serves worship. If the driving factor of the music is to attract people, then who exactly is being worshiped?

The fundamental principles defended

- Ephesians 5.19
- Colossians 3.16
- Can any music program ever be pleasing to the Lord, if it includes no psalms?
- This raised a question about I Corinthians 14.23-26. The context suggests adding to the Psalms.

I Chronicles 25.1-7

- “The quality of worship is not determined by the types of instruments used.”
- I Chr. 25.1, 7
- Hab. 3:19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

- “Music serves worship”
- I Chr. 25.1, 2, 3
- The music is prophecy. Not predicting the future prophecy, telling the Word of the Lord prophecy. See I Corinthians 14.24
- I Chr. 25.7-8. They were highly skilled, and training others. (There were 4000 musicians, I Chr. 23.5)
- They were under the hand of Asaph, who was under the order of the king. 25.1

- “Music is more than a vehicle for delivering lyrics”
- Psalm 75: A Psalm of Asaph (I Chr. 25.1)
- Altaschith: “Do not destroy” That was probably the name of the tune
- It is a prophecy: The Lord Himself speaks.
- The theme of the Psalm is God’s judgment upon unbelievers.

- Psalm 88 By Heman
- Mahalath. Related to the Hebrew word sick
- Leannoeth: afflicted, humbled
- Maschil: meditation, instruction
- The theme of the Psalm is praying while in despair and darkness
- Psalm 62. To Jeduthun
- The theme is confidence in God's deliverance

Further considerations

- Music (a prophecy) is one of the dimensions of women being involved in prophecy (Acts 2.17)
- Music (a prophecy) must fit the pattern of preaching. I Corinthians 14.29-33
- Its content must be Scriptural and substantial (not simply sentimental). It also must allow for the use of poetry to describe truth. Psalm 18.6-24
- Its content should be varied: rejoicing and lamenting

- Its style of delivery should be appropriate to the occasion
- It should never take on the appearance of a performance
- What about music we don't particularly like?
- We are to aspire to sing what is acceptable to God