



NEWSLETTER

Sunday, August 31, 2008

BIBLE STUDY..... 10 a.m.
"Gospel of Luke"

MORNING WORSHIP..... 11 a.m.
"A Trustworthy Statement #3"
Dan Austin

EVENING SERVICE.... 6 p.m.
Spiritual Songs & Psalms

WEDNESDAY MEETING..... 7 p.m.
"The Parables of Jesus"

News & Notes

Welcome Visitors. If you are a visitor in our congregation today we welcome you and invite you to stay for a while after service so we can get to know you.

Please pray for **Sam Barton** who is still deployed.

The **Harper** family will be in North Carolina for two weeks. **Darcy Austin** has returned to college in Oregon.

Please continue to pray for those who are sick or ailing: **Martha Holloway, Dema Franklin, Marie Adams, Benjamin Hoskins (Daniel's father.)**

Member Birthdays in September

5 th Sam Barton	10 th Jana Wells
6 th Reah Fredrickson	11 th Zenaida Powers
9 th Summer Hamilton	26 th Earnest Peeples

Psalm 71:1-6

In You, O LORD, I put my trust;
let me never be put to shame.
Deliver me in Your righteousness,
and cause me to escape;
Incline Your ear to me, and save me.
Be my strong refuge,
to which I may resort continually;
You have given the commandment to save me,
for You are my rock and my fortress.
Deliver me, O my God,
out of the hand of the wicked,
out of the hand of the unrighteous
and cruel man.
For You are my hope, O Lord GOD;
You are my trust from my youth.
By You I have been upheld from birth;
You are He who took me
out of my mother's womb.
My praise shall be continually of You.

NKJV

He leadeth me, O blessed thought
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me

And when my task on earth is done,
When by thy grace the vict'ry's won
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God thro' Jordon leadeth me

He leadeth me, He leadeth me
By his own hand he leadeth me
His faithful follower I would be
For by his hand he leadeth me

J. H. Gilmore/Wm. B. Bradbury

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where the Bible is the source of faith, where Jesus is Lord, where Christianity is a way of life!

A Natural Response of the Heart

Psalm 146:1-2 says, *Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD while I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.* I hope you share David's excitement to sing praises to God during worship. Singing is such an important part of what we do collectively in worship that it can set the tone for the entire service. It can be easy for us to take this part of worship for granted. If we are not careful, we can mumble along to the words, never considering the contents of the song. If that is the case, we must take a serious look at our attitude, because the type of singing that God accepts is that which comes from the heart. I have always found it disturbing that some who argue so passionately against instruments of music in worship hardly sing louder than a whisper in the assembly. A look at Psa. 146:2 shows that we should relish the opportunity to praise God. When we consider how the love of God has been shown to each one of us by rescuing us from sin, singing should be a natural response of the heart. Our hearts should perk up with praise! Consider the following verses that talk about our singing:

- **James 5:13b**—*Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises.* The good news of the gospel should bring cheer to our hearts. Singing is a way to communicate what is on our heart.
- **Hebrews 13:15**—*Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.* What better way to demonstrate our thanks to God than by singing? Is our gratitude to the Creator reflected by the way we sing?
- **Ephesians 5:18-19**—*be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.* These verses tell us our music is to come from our heart. With all of our heart, we should offer praise, glory, and honor to God.

Singing is also important, because with it we teach and admonish each other, Colossians 3:16. This passage teaches us that we can learn from the songs we sing. We teach one another when we sing. For example, while singing *He is Able to Deliver Thee*, *A Shelter in the Time of Storm*, and *Abide With Me*, we are reminded of the great hope and trust we have in God. *Our God: He is Alive*, teaches us about God. We are reminded of our responsibilities to family when we sing *God Give Us Christian Homes*, and songs like *Hallelujah*, *What a Savior* challenge us to think of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

In Colossians 3:16, Paul says singing hymns can *admonish us*. When we admonish one another, we warn each other and help keep each other from wrong doing. For example, when we sing *Is Thy Heart Right With God*, *Sowing the Seed of the Kingdom*, and *Did You Think to Pray*, we are reminding and admonishing each other to do well in our service to God. Singing together should uplift us and give us assurance. When we leave a worship service, we should be uplifted because of what we have offered to God.

We need to treat this part of our worship seriously. We all would do well to remember that we are praising our Creator when singing and it is not a time for joke telling, passing notes, or talking. We do a great disservice to God and to ourselves when we take the song service for granted and never give consideration its essentialness in worship. Remember, God wants you to praise Him from the heart! Will you not do that today?