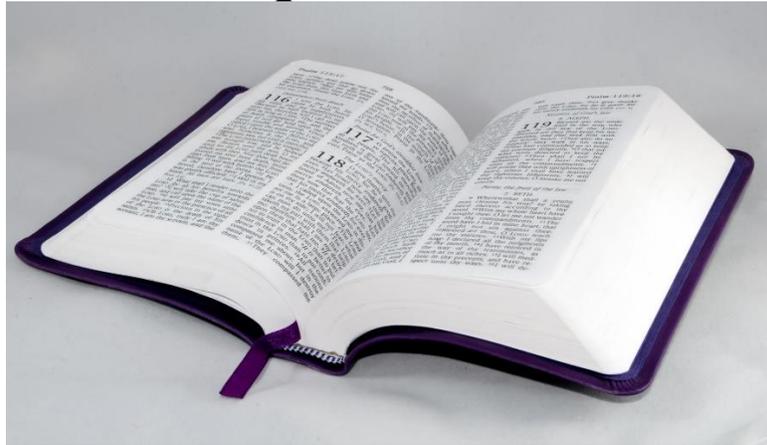




The Scriptures & Music



So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. I Corinthians 4:15

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**Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Online Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.**

Zoom Meeting ID 973 678 1217, Passcode 6781293

Agenda

Prayer

Introduction

- Catchy songs: ABCs, Preamble by New Dimension, Books of the Bible
- Importance & Purpose of Music
- Style of Music
- The Content (Lyrics)
- Music in the OT and the NT
- Songs We love
 - Hymns
 - Gospel
 - Anthems
 - Worship
- Songs that are scripture based
- Songs not so scripture based
- Favorite scripture
- Hymns that see us through
- What's your favorite song?
- Conclusion

What's your Understanding? How do you learn?

We are still learning! We are in Bible Study tonight to learn more, but let's look back and see what techniques and memory tricks we might have used to recite poetry, tell jokes, even long speeches word-for-word, even the alphabet & Bible verses. Music has been a major tool for learning, no matter what the topic or subject.

Let's look back at some catchy songs of old: ABC's, Preamble to the Constitution, & Books of the Bible.

The Importance of Music in the Bible

The apostle Paul also shows the importance of music in the New Testament Church: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16). Our theme scripture for this Bible Study is *So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. I Corinthians 4:15*

The Purpose of Music

- 1) Music is designed solely for worship, or did God also intend music to be soothing and/or entertaining? The most famous musician in the Bible, King David, primarily used music for the purpose of worshiping God (**Psalm 4:1; 6:1, 54:1, 55:1; 61:1; 67:1; 76:1**). However, when King Saul was tormented by evil spirits, he would call on David to play the harp in order to soothe him ([1 Samuel 16:14-23](#)). The Israelites also used musical instruments to warn of danger ([Nehemiah 4:20](#)) and to surprise their enemies ([Judges 7:16-22](#)). In the New Testament, the apostle Paul instructs Christians to encourage one another with music: "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" ([Ephesians 5:19](#)). So, while the primary purpose of music does seem to be worship, the Bible definitely allows for other uses of music.



We can learn from Assyrian depictions of ancient musicians a good deal about how Biblical psalms might have been performed. The meditative, introverted lute player on this eighth-century B.C.E. relief from Samal in modern Turkey, for instance, can give us an idea of what the performer of a wisdom psalm may have looked like. *Photo: Vorderasiatisches Museum Berlin/Photo Thomas Staubli.*

The style of music. Sadly, the issue of music styles can be very divisive among Christians.

- There are Christians who adamantly demand that no musical instruments be used.
- There are Christians who only desire to sing the "old faithful" hymns.
- There are Christians who want more upbeat and contemporary music.
- There are Christians who claim to worship best in a "rock concert" type of environment.

Instead of recognizing these differences as personal preferences and cultural distinctions, some Christians declare their preferred style of music to be the only “**biblical**” one and declare all other forms of music to be unwholesome, ungodly, or even satanic.

The Bible nowhere condemns any particular style of music. The Bible nowhere declares any particular musical instrument to be ungodly. The Bible mentions numerous kinds of string instruments and wind instruments. While the Bible does not specifically mention drums, it does mention other percussion instruments ([Psalm 68:25](#); [Ezra 3:10](#)). Nearly all of the forms of modern music are variations and/or combinations of the same types of musical instruments, played at different speeds or with heightened emphasis. **There is no biblical basis to declare any particular style of music to be ungodly or outside of God’s will.**

The content of the lyrics.... Secular Music - Yes or No?

Since neither the purpose of music nor the style of music determines whether a Christian should listen to secular music, the content of the lyrics must be considered. While not specifically speaking of music, [Philippians 4:8](#) is an excellent guide for musical lyrics: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

If we should be thinking about such things, surely those are the things we should invite into our minds through music and lyrics. Can the lyrics in a secular song be **true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy**? If so, then there is nothing wrong with a Christian listening to a secular song of that nature.

You may disagree, but much of secular music does not meet the standard of [Philippians 4:8](#). Secular music often promotes immorality and violence while belittling purity and integrity. **If a song glorifies what opposes God, a Christian should not listen to it.** However, there are many secular songs with no mention of God that still uphold godly values such as honesty, purity, and integrity. **If a love song promotes the sanctity of marriage and/or the purity of true love—even if it does not mention God or the Bible—it can still be listened to and enjoyed.**

Here & Now, Luther Vandrose

Crazy in Love, Beyonce

Forever, Chris Brown

Whatever a person allows to occupy his mind will sooner or later determine his speech and his actions. This is the premise behind [Philippians 4:8](#) and [Colossians 3:2, 5](#): establishing wholesome thought patterns. [Second Corinthians 10:5](#) says we should “take captive every

thought and make it obedient to Christ.” These Scriptures give a clear picture of the kind of music we should not listen to.

Obviously, the best kind of music is that which praises and glorifies God. Talented Christian musicians work in nearly every musical genre, ranging from classical to rock, rap, and reggae. There is nothing inherently wrong with any particular style of music. It is the lyrics that determine whether a song is “acceptable” for a Christian to listen to. **If anything leads you to think about or get involved in something that does not glorify God, it should probably be avoided.**

Music is an inherent part of every society. The unearthly sounds of throat-singing in Mongolia and Siberia are as important to their cultures as Bach is to European cultures or drum-driven song and dance are to Native American cultures. Since music is such an important part of life, it should not be surprising that the Bible says much about it; in fact, the longest book in the Bible is its song book—[Psalms](#).

Psalms accounts for over 7 percent of the Old Testament. In addition to the Psalms are other song-and poetry-focused books such as [Song of Solomon](#), [Ecclesiastes](#), and others. In the New Testament, we have song lyrics recorded in [Revelation 5,\(1-14\) 7:1-17](#) and [15](#); the mention of Jesus and the disciples singing in [Matthew 26:30](#); and the example of the apostles’ singing in [Acts 16:25](#). Many people also consider Mary’s *Magnificat* (Song of Praise) in [Luke 1:46–55](#) and the angels’ announcement in [Luke 2:14](#) to be songs. The church is commanded to communicate with each other “with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord” ([Ephesians 5:19](#)).

Recorded musicians and music in the Old Testament:

The first reference to a musician in the Bible is in [Genesis 4:21](#). Jubal was the fourth generation from Adam through Cain and is recorded as “the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.” Other early references to music include [Exodus 15](#), which records Moses and the Israelites singing a song of victory after the overthrow of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea. At that time, Moses’ sister, Miriam, led the Israelite women “with tambourines and dancing” as she sang. When Jephthah returned from battle, [Jephthah’s daughter](#) met him with timbrels and dance in [Judges 11:34](#). David’s victories were also celebrated in song in [1 Samuel 18:6–7](#).

Two of the Old Testament’s most important figures wrote songs: Moses and David. Moses has three songs recorded in the Bible: the song sung after the destruction of Pharaoh’s army ([Exodus 15:1–18](#)); a song recounting the faithfulness of God and the rebelliousness of Israel, which he sang before all the people just before his death

(Deuteronomy 32:1–43); and a prayer recorded in [Psalm 90](#).

PSALMS

David, “the sweet psalmist of Israel” ([2 Samuel 23:1](#)), is credited with writing about half of the 150 songs recorded in Psalms, along with some in the historical books. He was the official musician in Saul’s court ([1 Samuel 16:14–23](#)). During David’s own reign, he organized the Levitical musicians, and [1 Chronicles 15:16](#) and [23:5](#) record that more than one in ten Levites in temple service were musicians.

Other musicians include Asaph (twelve psalms), the sons of Korah (ten psalms), Solomon (two psalms and 1,005 other songs [\[1 Kings 4:32\]](#) and the Song of Solomon), Heman (one psalm), and Ethan (one psalm).

On to the New Testament - Recorded musicians and music in the New Testament:

Two of the Gospels mention the fact that Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn at the end of the [Last Supper](#) ([Matthew 26:30](#) and [Mark 14:26](#)). Elsewhere in the Gospels, music is seen as part of mourning ([Matthew 9:23](#)) and celebration ([Luke 15:25](#)).

Paul gave instructions regarding the use of music during Christian gatherings in [Ephesians 5:19](#) and [Colossians 3:16](#). In Ephesians we see that addressing each other with hymns and songs is an indication of being Spirit-filled. In Colossians the same is an indication of being filled with the Word of Christ, and the songs come “from the Spirit.” In [James 5:13](#) we have this command: “Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.”

We’ve learned what music the Bible deems honorable and appropriate for Christians to embrace, let us now look at music that we may or may not embrace today.

HYMNS

Song in Christian worship, usually sung by the congregation and written in stanzas with rhyme and metre. The term comes from the Greek *hymnos* (“song of praise”), but songs in honour of God or the gods exist in all civilizations.

Christian hymnody grew out of the singing of psalms in the Temple of Jerusalem. The earliest known Christian hymn dates from c. AD 200. Hymns were prominent in the Byzantine liturgy from early times, and in the Western church they were sung by congregations until the Middle Ages, when choirs took over hymn singing.

GOSPEL MUSIC

Per the Gospel Music Month Foundation, Gospel music was born from the traditional hymns and spiritual songs the Africans sang during the slave era. The spirituals were songs of hope sung by the enslaved people before freedom/emancipation. The traditional hymns were introduced in the United States by the Europeans who had settled in North America.

- As the curtains of 1980 through the 1990's drew opened, there was a soothing melody found in Contemporary Gospel. This new Gospel gave us peace of mind. A peace of mind that continues to be the foundation of real happiness and that peace is the fruit of our love perfectly fulfilled in song / music. It provided great comfort in knowing that we will one day see Jesus. Artists such as V. Michael McKay "All In His Hand," The Winans, "Tomorrow," Vanessa Bell Armstrong, "Peace Be Still," and Thomas Witfield, "Precious Jesus" reassures us in our daily walk with God. In declaring that God knows each of us by name, and that His love for us was affirmed by His death on the Cross-, continue to give us hope in a dark, sin filled world.
- This new music had it's crossover into the world of entertainment through such stars as Ray Charles, Al Green, Aretha Franklin, The Edwin Hawkins Singers (O Happy Day), Andrea Crouch; (The Blood Will Never Lose its Power), which was composed by him when he was only thirteen years of age.
- During the 1990's until 2000 and beyond singers such as Yolanda Adams, "The Battle is The Lord," written by V. Michael McKay, "Perfect Praise," written by Brenda Joyce Moore and lead by Lecresia Campbell with Walt Whitman and the Soul Children of Chicago, and we can never forget Kirk Franklin, "Why We Sing." We can never forget Rev. James Cleveland and the music he brought to us. The songs that they sing are statements of faith that has kept our hearts and minds stayed on Jesus as we enjoy today and look forward to better tomorrows.

ANTHEMS

First appearing in Old English in the form *antefn*, [*anthem*](#) derives ultimately from Greek *antiphōnos*—a word meaning "responsive" that is a combination of *anti-*, meaning "over" or "against," and *phōnē*, "sound" or "voice." The Greek root gives a hint as to what the musical form of early anthems was like. Originally, anthems were devotional verses sung as a response during a religious service.

One of the first songs identified as a "national anthem" is Great Britain's "God Save the King."

By the 16th century, anthems consisted of psalms, hymns, or prayers sung responsively by two separated choirs. Music for soloists and instrumental accompaniment (normally the organ) were eventually incorporated into the liturgical anthems and alternated with verses sung by a single choir.

WORSHIP MUSIC

We won't put songs in this category, because as Christians we can worship whether it's a hymn, gospel song, or anthem is being played, sang, or hummed. Worship is not what we hear, it's what we do!

SONGS THAT ARE SCRIPTURE BASED

- Identify

SONGS NOT SO SCRIPTURE BASED

- Matthew 17:20
- Mark 11:12
- Matthew 21:21
- I Corinthians 13:2

"Rough side of the mountain, the Barnes Family!!!"

YOUR FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

- Memorize a new one with a song

HYMNS THAT SEE US THROUGH

- Identify

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG?

- Identify

CONCLUSION

Both the Old and New Testaments address music and strongly support its use in worship. The extensive anthology of actual songs found in the Old Testament indicates the importance and value God places on creative musical expression. Music's use in worship in the church today is valuable and can honor God in a special way. Music is a communication tool. There are no New Testament instructions on the type of instruments to be used (or not used), and no particular "style" of music is recommended or forbidden. **The simple command is to sing "to God with gratitude in your hearts" (Colossians 3:16). "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."**

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