

## WHY CHRISTIANS SING

Text: Hebrews 2:12

INTRO: Perhaps the greatest argument against mechanical instrumental music in worship is good singing. Most of those who would try to defend the use of mechanical music in worship do so by insisting that instruments are an aid to singing. I deny that this is so. Like saying that roller skates are an aid to walking.

But the best argument against humanly devised music is to sing with spirit, understanding & devotion to God in such a way that such "aids" are obviously not needed.

This lesson is not a lesson against the use of mechanical music in worship. This lesson is in favor of Scriptural singing.

### I. SOME NEGATIVE ASPECTS.

A. The song service is not a time for exchanging greetings, passing notes, whispering, etc.

B. It is not merely a "call to worship." Singing is worship.  
I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the congregation I will sing praise to You.  
(Heb. 2:12).

C. Singing is not just a matter of custom or tradition. It is an act of obedience to the Divine will.

Speaking to one another in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs, singing & making melody in your heart to the Lord. (Eph. 5:19)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching & admonishing one another in psalms, hymns & spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:16).

### II. POSITIVE ASPECTS.

A. Singing is a part of God's revealed will for His creatures.  
READ EPHESIANS 5:17-19.

B. Singing is a medium thru which we teach & admonish one another regarding our duties as Christians, Col. 3:16. love for brethren, heaven, "come to Jesus," etc.

C. Singing is a natural out-growth of joyful hearts.  
Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. (James 5:13).

D. Finally, singing offers a hedge of protection against fear and discouragement.

1. When Paul & Silas had been beaten unjustly and thrown into prison, they maintained their spiritual composure & became shining examples of Christianity at work by praying & praising God in their prison cell.

But at midnight Paul & Silas were praying and singing hymns to God & the prisoners were listening to them. (Acts 16:25).

2. As Jesus finished instituting the Lord's supper, and went out to the Garden of Gethsemane to face the most agonizing ordeal in human history, He went out with a song on His lips.

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Matthew 26:30).

**CONCLUSION:** God truly commanded singing for our good, just as He did all His other commands. When we sing psalms, hymns or spiritual songs, our singing is directed first to God who commanded it, and second toward one another so that we may edify by teaching and/or admonishing one another concerning our duty & God's promises. Not all have been given the same amount of talent/ability in this area, but it behooves us to hone our skills & do our best in expressing in song our love for God & for each other, that God may be praised & all may be edified.

With slight editing on my part, I share with you a poem written by Thomas Chalmers Harbaugh:

## TROUBLE IN THE "AMEN" CORNER

'Twas a stylish congregation, you could tell they'd been around.  
Why they had the biggest pipe organ of any church in town.  
But over in the "amen corner" of that church sat brother Eyer,  
And he insisted every Lord's day on singing in the choir.  
His voice was cracked and broken, age had touched his vocal chords,  
And nearly every Sunday he'd get behind & miss the words.  
So the chorus stormed & blustered, & the church was told in time  
Brother Eyer must stop his singing or the choir was gonna resign.

So the preacher appointed a committee, I think it was 3 or 4  
And they got in their fine cars & drove out to Eyer's door.  
They found the choir's great trouble sitting in an old armchair,  
And the summer's golden sunbeams glistened on his snow white hair.  
Said one, "We're here, dear brother with the vestry's approbation  
To discuss a little matter that concerns the congregation.  
We don't want any singing except what we have bought.  
The latest tunes are all the rage, the old ones stand for naught.

"And so we have decided--Are you listening, brother Eyer?  
You're gonna have to quit your singing. It's messing up our choir."  
The old man raised his head, a sign that he did hear,  
And on his cheek the 3 men caught the glitter of a tear.  
"I've sung the psalms of David nearly 80 years," said he.  
"They've been my staff and comfort all along life's rugged way.  
I'm sorry I disturb the choir, perhaps I'm doing wrong,  
But when my heart is filled with praise, I can't hold back a song.

"I wonder if beyond the tide that's breaking at my feet,  
In that far off heavenly temple, where my Master I shall meet...  
Yes, I wonder, when I try to sing the songs of God up higher...  
I wonder, will they kick me out for singing in heaven's choir?"  
A silence filled the little room. The old man bowed his head.  
The committee went on back to town, but brother Eyer was dead.  
The choir missed him for a while, but he was soon forgot.  
A few church-goers watched the door, but the old man entered not.  
But far away his voice is sweet and he sings his heart's desire  
Where there are no church committees and no fashionable choirs.

La Porte, TX, February 13, 1983  
Exton, PA, October 21, 1984  
Cedar Park, TX, June 25, 1989 (meeting)  
Exton, PA, March 3, 1991  
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, May 21, 1995  
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, June 29, 2003