

TRUE WORSHIP (V): *SINGING*

Introduction

- 1) Fellowship in God's "house" should be our desire (Psa. 15:1; 26:8; 27:4; 23:6; 84:1-2,4; 122:1)
- 2) Christians are now the "house" of God who are privileged to worship Him (1 Tim. 3:15; Psa. 29:2)
 - a) Some find worship a bore/weariness – offer half-hearted, lame worship (Mal. 1:13)
 - b) Others find great joy in worshiping God with fellow saints (Acts 20:7)
- 3) Children should observe a strong desire to worship God and a consistent example of faithful attendance from their parents and other adults; forsaking the assembly will have negative effects
 - a) Habits, whether good or bad, can last a lifetime and have eternal consequences
- 4) Let's give careful attention to our worship and the divine authority behind it

I) **Establishing the Divine Authority for Worship**

- A) **John 4:24** – true worship is to be offered to God "in spirit and truth"
 - 1) **Truth** – according to the revealed will of God – divine authority to act
 - 2) Need to know *where* and *how* to establish this divine authority for worship
- B) The New Testament is God's word for man today (Heb. 1:1-2; Col. 3:17)
 - 1) When we speak concerning God's things it must be from His "oracles" (1 Pet. 4:11)
- C) Two basic sources of authority by which to act – God or man (Matt. 21:25)
 - 1) Must have proper authority by which to act – otherwise it is sin (2 Jn. 9; Matt. 15:9)
- D) Establishing divine authority

	<u>Jesus</u>	<u>Acts 15</u>
1) Direct statement/command (tell)	Matt. 28:19	Acts 15:13-18
2) Approved example (show)	Jn. 13:15	Acts 15:12
3) Necessary inference (imply)	Matt. 22:32	Acts 15:7-11
4) Generic and specific authority		
a) Generic command allows man to determine most expedient way (Matt. 28:19 "Go")		
b) Specific command restricts action to what is specified ("baptism in name of F/S/HS")		
5) Silence of Scripture does <i>not</i> give permission (cf. Heb. 7:14; 1 Kgs. 12:31)		
- E) It is possible for all to unite upon the divine authority taught in God's word (1 Cor. 1:10)
 - 1) Not appeal to OT, men, creeds, majority, personal opinion, emotion, sincerity, results

II) **Singing**

- A) **Singing** is a wondrous and joyous act of worship unto God (Ex. 15:1; Psa. 9:2, 11; Heb. 2:12)
 - 1) Can be done by individuals on various occasions (Acts 16:25; Jas. 5:13)
- B) Singing is an important act within the assembly of worship and all music in NT is singing (Matt. 26:30; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; Jas. 5:13)
- C) Closer look at **Ephesians 5:19** and **Colossians 3:16**
 - 1) **Congregational action** – "speaking to one another" "teaching and admonishing one another"
 - a) Solos and choirs do not fulfill command because all are to be involved together in singing
 - 2) **Specific action of singing necessary** – "speaking" "teaching"
 - a) **Aido** (Gk) – to sing; outward, audible making of sound/melody
 - b) **Psallo** (Gk) – make melody, pluck, twang – on what instrument? "*in the heart*"
 - c) Mechanical instruments add another type of music unauthorized by God (play vs. sing)
 - 3) **Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs** – type of songs to be sung (not secular, worldly songs)
- D) Singing is the "fruit of our lips" – the sacrifice of praise to God (Heb. 13:15)
- E) God's singers should give their very best to sing *as God would desire* (leaders give best effort)
 - 1) *Scriptural words* with understanding; *sincere hearts* with joy and praise unto God

Conclusion

Before Jesus left the upper room to face His darkest hour, he sang a hymn with His disciples (Matt. 26:30). God gave man the ability to sing – many sing about sin and this world. Let us joyfully raise our voices to sing and praise God – truly it is *music* to His ears now and in eternity!