

“As We Sing Here On Earth...”

The Blessings We Receive From Worship

Introduction:

A. When All of God’s Singers Get Home: “As we sing here on earth, songs of sadness or mirth, ‘tis a foretaste of rapture to come...” 232

1. Luther G. Presley (March 6, 1887 – December 6, 1974) was a songwriter, musician, and composer, who is best-known for writing the lyrics to the gospel song "When the Saints Go Marching In." He was born on Beckett Mountain in Faulkner County, Arkansas on March 6, 1887. He studied music at the age of 14, where he excelled. He soon became a song leader in the local church in Rosebud, AR. He wrote his first song, "Gladly Sing," when he was 17. He wrote more than 1500 Gospel songs in his lifetime, but “When All of God’s Singers Get Home” was his favorite. As he neared the twilight days of his life, he asked that this song be sung at his funeral to remind mourners that he has gone to his home, sweet home.

2. “I would rather have written the hymns than to have the fame of all the kings that ever sat on earth; it is more glorious, it has more power in it.”
(Kenneth W. Osbeck, 101 Hymn Stories)

I. WE YEARN TO BE CLOSE TO GOD

- A. Gen. 4:26 - Humankind has called on God from the beginning
- B. 1Chron. 22:19; 2Chron. 20:3-4 - The children of Israel sought the Lord
- C. Acts 17:26-28 - Even the pagans looked for God
- D. Acts 15:13-17 - It was prophesied that we would seek the Lord
- E. We have an innate need to seek for something larger than ourselves
- F. 589 - As the Deer

II. WE NEED A MEANS OF COMING CLOSE TO GOD

A. We need a means of expressing worship to God when we find Him

B. “Music brings relief! Hymns change mood! Songs empower the downhearted. Sing songs always! When all things seem down, sing a good and inspiring song! When you seem to be wasting your energy on toxic thoughts, invoke your spirit with an amazing song! Songs have power! Empower your life with good songs! Songs and hymns refresh the body. Hymns invoke the spirit to rise to its maker for strength. When we live in a day without a hymn or a song, we disregard the essence of the day”
(Ernest A. Yeboah)

- C. Left alone without instruction, we will worship creation rather than the Creator
 - 1. Deut. 4:14-16, 19-20; Rom. 1:20-23
- D. 34 - Worthy Art Thou

III. GOD HAS GIVEN US THE MEANS OF COMING CLOSE TO HIM

- A. Gen. 17:1-2, 18:19; Ex. 25:40; Col. 3:17; Eph. 1:22-23
- B. The church of Christ is the assembly given by God where we can come together in His presence and offer Him the worship we are eager to give Him in the manner He has specified
- C. 433 - I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

IV. THE CHURCH IS ALSO A MEANS OF DRAWING NEAR TO EACH OTHER

- A. Eph. 2:14-22 - It is the beginning and primary source of our fellowship with one another
- B. Acts 2:42; 1John 1:7
- C. 302 - Blest be the Tie that Binds

V. WE ARE STRENGTHENED IN THE CHURCH

- A. Acts 11:22-24; Col. 2:1-2 - By spending time with one another
- B. Acts 12:5, 12 - By praying with each other
- C. 633 - How Long Has It Been?

VI. WE GROW IN THE CHURCH

- A. 1Thes. 3:1-3 - We are vulnerable when we do not come together to learn
- B. 1Cor. 14:31 - The learning process is a joy and pleasure
- C. 439 - The Law of the Lord (Psalm 19)

VII. WE ARE NEVER CLOSER TO GOD THAN WHEN ASSEMBLED IN HIS NAME

- A. Matt. 18:20; Psalm 104:33-34, 122:1
- B. 125 - Nearer, Still Nearer

Conclusion:

A. "Imagination makes poems; devotion makes hymns. There can be poetry without emotion, but a hymn never. A poem may argue; a hymn must not. In short to be a hymn, what is written must express spiritual feelings and desires. The music of faith, hope, and charity will be somewhere in its strain." (Hezekiah Butterworth, The Story of the Hymns)

- B. We have spoken to one another through song - Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
- C. What happens when the children of God speak to one another? Mal. 3:16-17