



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

# Teaching through Worship

Bible Reading: Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16-17

[Watch LIVESTREAM here at 10am](#)

[Join our post-sermon discussion on Zoom at 11am](#)

[Join our citKids Connect discussion at 11am](#)

## Brief introduction

### Instructions for the early church on what to do when gathering

- A. Contrasts between what *not* to do, with what you ought to do (Eph. 5:18)
- B. Describes what should be done when gathering (Eph. 5:19-20; Col. 3:16-17)
- C. Importance of Col. 3:16—'Sister verse' to Eph. 5:19
  - "Col. 3:16...is important for a biblical understanding [of] the role of music in the Church's...worship."—Barry Joslin

### A list of separate actions, or a cohesive liturgy?

- A. Depending on the translation, Paul's instructions could be interpreted as...independent activities
- B. One could easily view church activities as a list of things to do, (e.g. like a chore list)
- C. Teaching, admonishing, singing, & giving thanks, are all part of a cohesive church practice.
  - "Paul wants the community to teach & admonish each other *by means of* various kinds of songs" —Douglas Moo
  - "Musical worship is an essential, God-ordained *means* of our teaching & admonishing one another."—Barry Joslin

## Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs

- A. Psalms were sung by God's OT people, in the early church, & even today (Ps. 33:1-4)
- B. Hymns are songs of celebration or praise of God
- C. Spiritual songs are sung spontaneously, spiritually inspired
- D. Paul lists *all* types of songs relevant at the time. The Bible doesn't constrain our singing, it frees it!

## Singing is an 'essential means' of teaching & admonishment

- A. The early churches didn't have a NT Bible from which to teach. Paul's letters were the first writings of the NT
- B. Many in the early church were illiterate; they couldn't read the OT or the Apostles' letters
- C. So, a common way to teach was to sing (e.g. Phil. 2:6-11; Ex. 15)
- D. We should incorporate teaching, admonishment, & thanksgiving into our singing (Col. 3:16) o "*Teaching & admonishing one another with...psalms, hymns & spiritual songs, singing...to God*" (Col. 3:16)
  - "Psalms, hymns, & spiritual songs'...are *an essential means* of teaching and admonishing, such that the word of Christ richly dwells in believers."—Barry Joslin
  - "The Colossian & Ephesian churches are to instruct one another by means of all manner of musical praise. This is to characterize their worship. It should also characterize ours."—Barry Joslin

## How we approach singing at CIT

- A. At CIT we put thought into our song selection, & time & effort into our practice. We strive to "play skillfully."
- B. CIT worship team's Mission statement: "*To engage the church community into genuine worship of God*"
- C. Three requirements for accepting a song:
  - Is it biblically accurate?
  - Is it relevant to our church? Is it accessible? (not too difficult, or too distracting; can everyone join in?)
- D. Choosing songs for Sunday
  1. Generally, the first song is one of invitation.
  2. Usually there's one 'anchor song' on a similar theme to the message
  3. Choose songs by theme, not by exact topic
  4. Must be Christ-centered
  5. Recognizes God's status & our own

## Closing thoughts

- A. Worship is ascribing ultimate worth to our God
- B. God seeks our worship (Jn. 4:23)
- C. Singing has a special place in God's heart
- D. Singing is also beneficial for teaching
- E. If God places such a high importance on singing, we should too
  1. Prepare our hearts for worship beforehand
  2. Be on time—Live stream starts at 10:00 am (EST) Sun.
  3. Sing throughout the week (You tube, Spotify, CDs, instrumentals)
  4. Learn new songs in various styles.
  5. Have a thankful heart for all that God has done for you

## QUESTIONS:

- Read Eph. 5:18b-20 and Col. 3:16-17. These 'sister verses,' suggest that 'being Spirit-filled' & 'Letting Christ's word indwell us' are 'two sides of one coin.' Based on this understanding:
  - A. Eph 5 says "speaking...in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs," Col 3 also refers to "psalms, hymns, & spiritual songs." How does Col. 3 help us know what kind of "speaking" this should be? What should be the content of our "speaking"?
  - B. "Psalms & hymns & spiritual songs" are obviously for singing; according to Col. 3:16 what other purposes do they have?
  - C. We tend to separate worship in songs from the 'ministry of the word' (messages). How does Col. 3:16 change that view?
  - D. During the past week (or two) which hymn or song has helped you touch the Lord/be Spirit-filled? Name the song. What elements of that particular song/hymn have
    - 1. Taught you something about God/Christ/salvation? What's that "something"?
    - 2. Have encouraged &/or admonished you? Explain