



With hope that this page will bring glory to God and attention to His Word, you are invited to check this page every day for a piece of scripture, thoughts on the verse(s) and a prayer. May the ideas presented here bring you fulfillment as you continue your journey with Christ.

Monday April 29, 2024

Today's Scripture:

Psalm 98:4-6

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing
praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the
lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the
Lord!

Thoughts on Today's Verse(s):

Forgive me, dear friends in Christ, I have some confessions to make before you and The Lord today. I confess today that I am often frustrated and aggravated by those who make such a fuss about the nature of the music we sing and play in church. In fact, there are those in the family of believers who will choose their worship site *solely and entirely* based on their perception of the quality and make-up of the music. Even worse, beyond their own preferences, they may even believe that if the music is not of a certain quality or style, it is not proper, sanctified or even appropriate to be heard in church. This may even include the conviction that if someone is not gifted with a pleasing singing voice, they should be silent. Bah! "Sing all the louder!", says I.

See, my conviction comes from one of the words of the psalmist today. It's a very small word and it comes to quickly in his words that it's easy to miss. Ready for the word? Here it is: *to*. We forget *to Whom* we are singing. We forget that the music in church, although many times enjoyable and certainly useful in our worship and edification, we are not singing to each other.

We are singing to God! We are not just singing for our own enjoyment.

Today's verses from Psalm 98 exhort us and encourage us to make a joyful noise *to The Lord*. Period. It doesn't say that we shouldn't sing if we're not that good at it. It doesn't say that a pipe organ should be the only instrument ever to grace the air waves in our sanctuary. The psalmist did not write that only hymns of a certain style should be allowed in church. Nope. He wrote that we should "*make a joyful noise unto The Lord*". He wrote that with a wide variety of musical instruments, we should play and sing *to The Lord*.

The next time we are sitting in worship and we really don't like the music, we should take a moment to look around. Look across the room. Look at the folks in the pews ahead and behind, across and beside. Is it clear that *everyone* thinks and feels the same as you? Or is there someone, anyone, with whom it is apparent that they are not only enjoying the music, they are truly blessed by it? I would be surprised if there is nobody who at a particular time, with a particular musical selection, is uplifted by and engaged with the music. And even if we are not, we should find peace and joy in the knowledge that someone else, one of your brothers and sisters in Christ, is. We should find great joy in altruistic and agape love that that person is singing and/or playing *to The Lord*. For if we don't, we are not loving our neighbors as He commanded.

Prayer:

Abba Father, forgive us for making such an ado about the music we use to worship You and glorify You. We are reminded by the psalmist today that You have exhorted us to make a joyful noise unto You with any number of instruments and all of our voices. We are reminded that even though we may not find certain sounds pleasing, they are sanctified as genuine and authentic worship because they are pleasing to You. Lord, humble us to accept and respect all the music made in our presence as it is made by others in true worship, love and awe. May we find peace and joy in the awareness that many things in Your kingdom, especially the music, are not for us, but for You. may we sing and play loudly today knowing that we are singing and playing to You. We pray through The Perfect Musician, Christ our Lord, Amen.

