

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XII

September 21, 2003

No. 38

WHAT IS IN YOU WHEN YOU SING?

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Paul writes, “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God*” (Colossians 3:16).

Do you ever find yourself entering into the song service just mouthing the words? Your mind is elsewhere, almost totally disengaged from the meaning of the song. Have you ever completed a song service, and if asked, could not remember the songs you had just sung. This is a scary situation to be in. Not that you might be developing a mental disease, but that we could ever offer this kind of empty worship unto God.

Take a moment to think on the following things God connects with our singing that will help you avoid the dreaded “empty” or “unmeaning” song service.

Are you allowing the word of Christ to dwell in you richly? The word of the Lord cannot abide in us and affect our lives if we are not continually reading and meditating upon it. Allowing the

word to fill our heart with truth and wisdom, the spiritual part of our being is properly fed, and is alive (Matthew 4:4).

Allowing the word of Christ to dwell in us richly, will require a genuine love for God’s word. Who ever wants more and more of something that one does not truly love? Therefore, having a love for God’s word, and allowing the word to abide in us, we will be filled with great anticipation to sing “psalms, hymns and spiritual songs”.

The *spiritual songs* will not be mere words because we have developed a deep appreciation for where spiritual words are leading us. *Hymns*, which praise God, will quickly connect with a mind that has been thinking on God’s marvelous ways as revealed in His word. *Psalms* will touch a meaningful chord in our hearts because they have been our steady diet and source for daily meditation.

Is your intent to give and receive teaching and admonition when you sing? When we enter a song service prepared to give and receive instruction, such conscious intent helps guard us from simply

mouthing words. We will be more prone to concentrate on the meaning of the words when we enter the song service because we want to learn and be strengthened.

Do you have grace in your heart when you sing? Our hearts should be filled with joy and thanksgiving as we think of God’s great love extended to us through His Son, Jesus the Christ. We have been saved from sin and its eternal consequence of death. I am now ready to sing these hymns from the heart with genuine joy.

Do you sing unto the Lord? We speak to one another in our song service, but we also sing unto the Lord. How can I just mouth words unto Him? How can I utter words of songs designed to praise God and they leave my lips having no meaning to me?

An empty song service is the product of empty participants. Fill your heart with God’s word and the proper intent before you enter the song service. Because you are filled, the singing will not be empty.