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SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

THE BULWARK

“It feels good to sing...” is what John Stewart pointed out during one of his concert performances many years ago, in hopes of getting the audience to join with him in song. He was right, it does feel good to sing. Please allow a personal example, to help illustrate a point. As a student in junior high school, I was in need of an “elective” and was looking for a class that would require minimal effort and offer an easy “A” (or at the least a “B”). Choir seemed to fit that criterion. The first day in choir each student was asked to come up front and sing the notes along with those played on the piano. After hearing the voice of each student, the instructor then placed them in groups. I waited anxiously for a group, feeling pretty good about myself and my innate ability carry a tune. However that feel good moment didn’t last, as I was told to go to the counseling office to find another class. Nevertheless, it does feel good to sing.



Thanks be to God who is not so much concerned about tonal quality, but what emanates from the heart. Notice what Paul pens in Ephesians chapter five and verse nineteen, “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.” In Colossians, chapter three and verse sixteen the following is found, “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Naturally one should strive to do their best, mindful of 1Corinthians 14:40, “But let all things be done decently and in an orderly manner.” Just because one can’t “carry a tune in a bucket”, doesn’t mean they should-

n’t sing. Each one of us is called upon to sing and have our voices blend together. “O sing to the Lord a new song. For He has done wonderful things. His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.” (Psalms 98:1) God delights in hearing the voices of all his children as they sing forth praise to Him. After all, He has done “wonderful things”.

Francis Rowley, in 1887 wrote the lyrics for the hymn, “I Will Sing The Wonderous Story”. One can almost envision Rowley walking down along a pathway in the forest, singing. “I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me; how He left His home in glory for the cross of Calvary.” Then without breaking stride, his voice powerful as he sings the chorus, “Yes, I’ll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me. Sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.” How could any child of God, not want to sing out praises? Indeed how blessed we truly are. Building on this thought, make note of what James writes in his epistle, chapter five, verse thirteen. “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises.”

Is it hard to imagine Paul and Silas, while shackled in a Philippian jail, around midnight, were noted in Acts 16:25 as “praying and singing hymns of praise to God”? It shouldn’t be, these men were fully dedicated to the cause of Christ and were undaunted as they lifted up their voices. Doubtful if they were concerned about those things “musical”, but what was of import were the words; which apparently touched the heart of the jailer (Acts 16:28-34)

“Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.” (Psalms 147:1) (wbe)