

BROTHER BREWER AND SPECIAL MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

But we may sum up all the New Testament says about church music in a few words, and we believe then each reader will see that the above meets all the requirements. Let us first read the passages:

"And be not drunken with wine, wherein is riot; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:18-19).

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God" (Col. 3:16-17).

"I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also" (1 Cor. 14:15).

"Through him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips which make confession to his name" (Heb. 13:15).

We may say now that

1. It is the privilege, if not the duty, of each worshiper to sing.
2. That the songs must be spiritual songs.
3. That the singing must be such as will teach, edify, admonish all the worshipers.
4. That singing must be done with the spirit, with grace in the heart, and must make melody in the heart to the Lord.

It is no violation of anything in the New Testament—rather, it is sanctioned by it — for one man to sing to the audience if he can thereby edify and admonish the audience. Nor is it wrong for two persons, four persons, or six persons together to stand before the assembly and admonish them with a song or speak to them through a hymn — provided always of course, that the singers are themselves worshipers and that they are singing for the scriptural purpose, and provided, also, that they do not do all the singing and thereby take away the right and privilege that belongs to every Christian — to praise God in song. But some one suggests that some persons cannot sing. In reply, we say that they ought to learn to sing. Some people cannot read the Bible, but we insist that they ought to learn to read. It is further objected that some can never learn to sing. We cannot say whether that is true or not; but in a case of that kind we would suggest that the person get the hymn book, follow the words as the others sing, and try to make melody with his heart to the Lord. At least there is no excuse for his being inattentive. (G.C. Brewer, Firm Foundation, April 2005, pg. 15)