

September 15, 2019

## Singing to the Lord

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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## Services

### Sunday

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Bible Study  | 9:30 am  |
| A.M. Worship | 10:20 am |
| P.M. Worship | 2:00 pm  |

### Wednesday

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| Bible Class | 7:00 pm |
|-------------|---------|

**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*

*We offer Bible classes for all ages*

*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

**Ephesians 5:19:** *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

**Colossians 3:16:** *Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

These two verses teach the truth about how we must worship God through music. Notice toward the beginning of both verses that the phrases “**speaking to yourselves**” and “**teaching and admonishing one another**” are used. An important purpose of “congregational” singing is to edify one another.

This does not mean though that the purpose of such singing is to *please* ourselves. Notice the ending of both verses says “**to the Lord.**”

It is God who we must please. It is God who has the right to determine what is and is not acceptable in our worship. We must therefore follow His commands.

The commands He has given in the New Testament concerning worship in song all reference singing (**Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; James 5:13**). The examples He has given concerning New Testament worship in song also reference singing (cf. **Acts 16:25; 1 Cor. 14:15**).

# Singing to the Lord

(Continued)

In the Old Testament, worshipping God with mechanical instruments of music was acceptable (**Psalm 33:2**), as was offering animal sacrifices. The fact that animal sacrifices were willed by God under the Old Law does not make it so under the Law of Christ. Likewise, the presence of mechanical music in the Old Testament does not make it God's will for worship today (cf. **Col. 2:14-17**).

Some question how worshipping with mechanical instruments of music can be wrong if God has not *directly* forbidden it.

Consider an illustration. If we are asked to paint someone's kitchen white, we would recognize that it needs to be painted white. The individual asking does not have to say *not* to paint it green, blue, or any other color. The understanding is that white means white *alone*.

When God asked Noah to make an ark of gopher wood, God did not have to list hundreds of woods that could not be used (**Gen. 6:14**). The command necessarily inferred that gopher wood was all that was acceptable.

In the New Testament, God commands making melody *in our heart* by *singing*. Making melody with a piano or other

mechanical instrument is worshipping God differently than He authorizes.

Having said all of this, it is important to note that the need for obeying God's command to sing is not fulfilled only by ensuring our outward actions follow His pattern of "**singing**." Consider additional instruction He gives concerning this.

Our singing must be sincere, as indicated by the phrase "**making melody in your heart to the Lord**." Our hearts should be moved as we sing words that we mean. Those who are afraid their singing is not up to par should remember that God listens to our hearts.

We must also sing with thanksgiving, as pointed out in **Colossians 3:16**. A thankful, joyful heart that means the words being sung is pleasing to God.

This should be the goal of our worship to God. Mankind can devise numerous ways to worship that *seem* like a good idea. Yet, only those who follow God's commands are showing the love for Him He desires (**1 John 5:3**).

May we sing with grace while making melody in our hearts, and thereby make a sound that is beautiful to God and edifies others.

## Area Gospel Meetings

Elm Grove church of Christ:

Sep. 29 – Oct. 2 (with various speakers)

Sun: 9:30; 3:30; M-W: 7:00 PM

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### God’s Plan for Saving Man

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| God’s Grace              | Ephesians 2:8   |
| Christ’s Blood           | Romans 5:9      |
| The Holy Spirit’s Gospel | Romans 1:16     |
| Sinner’s Faith           | Acts 16:31      |
| Sinner’s Repentance      | Luke 13:3       |
| Sinner’s Confession      | Romans 10:10    |
| Sinner’s Baptism         | 1 Peter 3:21    |
| Christian’s Work         | James 2:24      |
| Christian’s Hope         | Romans 8:24     |
| Christian’s Endurance    | Revelation 2:10 |

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### Words to Consider

*“I have rejoiced in the way of your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts, and consider your ways. I will delight myself in your statutes. I will not forget your Word.” – Psalm 119:14-16*

## Prayer List

- Holly G
- Sandy S
- Betty P
- Mabel H
- Cheryl S
- Norma C
- Dody G
- Joe B
- Allen S (Cancer)
- Raymond & Maxine
- Randy & Kim S
- Mike & Family
- Ken & Chris F
- Brandon O’s Grandmother (Lung Cancer)

### Daily Bible Reading

- Sep. 15 – Proverbs 8-9; 2 Corinthians 3
- Sep. 16 – Proverbs 10-12; 2 Corinthians 4
- Sep. 17 – Proverbs 13-15; 2 Corinthians 5
- Sep. 18 – Proverbs 16-18; 2 Corinthians 6
- Sep. 19 – Proverbs 19-21; 2 Corinthians 7
- Sep. 20 – Proverbs 22-24; 2 Corinthians 8
- Sep. 21 – Proverbs 25-26; 2 Corinthians 9

*“Your testimonies are wonderful, therefore my soul keeps them. The entrance of your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.” – Psalm 119:129-130*

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Bible Study: Roger

Worship: Mike

Evening: Jeff

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Mark

### **Cleaning Building**

Misty

### **Prepare Communion**

Donna

### **Upcoming Reminders**

**Sep. 28: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.**

*Study: Naomi's Advice (Ruth 3:1-7)*

### **Assignments**

Sunday, September 22, 2019

Reading: Dan H

Announcements: Harold

Table: Dave

Serve: Jeff

Travis

John

Mark

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Invitation: Travis

### **Anniversaries**

October 6 – Travis & Jessica

October 11 – Mike & Paula

### **Birthdays**

September 20 – Michael

September 24 – Maxwell

October 2 – Carlyle

October 4 – Norma