

The Oologah Informer

Oct 9th , 2016

Is Anything Really Wrong With Choirs and Solos? Part 1

From the “Truth for the World” Website

Choirs and solos have plagued the religious world since their beginning by man, in the fifth century, hundreds of years after Christ established His church. So why have people, for many years now, been interested in using them to worship God? Is anything really wrong with choirs and solos?

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship has always been part of the Law of God. From the very beginning of time, God has required His followers to worship Him. What is worship? Webster’s Dictionary gives the following ideas for worship: “reverence offered a divine being; respect or adoration for or devotion to an object; to honor a supernatural power; to take part in an act of worship.” So the world defines worship as reverence, respect, admiration, devotion, or honor to a being or object. In our case the Being is God our Creator!

The Bible is our guide in all truth (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Let’s see what it says about what worship is. In the Bible, when the word “worship” is used, it refers to showing reverence to God, or to adoring God. It also has the idea of bowing before God. In John 4:24, Jesus said, God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth. Here we have outlined acceptable worship by a child of God. Our worship is pleasing to God when it is done in spirit and truth. In spirit refers to the right attitude and frame of mind. In truth refers to being done truly, according to God’s Will, or doing the right acts as God instructed (John 17:17).

There are many examples of worship in the Bible. Many talk of God’s followers going to worship or assembling to worship. For example, Abraham took his son, Isaac, to a place to worship God. In Genesis 22:5, we read that Abraham left his servants with the animals and went over

Address
13800 S. 4080 Rd on Hwy
169 South of Oologah
P.O. Box 527 Oologah, OK
74053 (918) 443-2025

www.oologahcofc.org
oologahcofc@oologahcofc.org

facebook.com/oologahchurchofchrist
Instagram.com/oologahradio

Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Fundamentals of the Faith; Lesson 3
Bible Authority; part 1 (Lev 10:1-2)

PM Sermon:

The Purpose of Christ appearing to
Saul (Acts 22:16)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Daniel – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Acts 11 – V. Smith

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On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love on Channel 47

Sundays @ 8am

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@ 6:15pm & Thursdays @ 6:15am

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yonder to worship God. The Israelites also assembled often in the presence of God to worship Him.

We also have many examples from the book of Psalms and other books of the Old Testament where individuals worshiped God in song, prayer, and other individual acts. Many people approached God alone and honored Him in worship.

There is definitely a distinction in the Bible, which must be acknowledged, between formal worship and informal worship to God. Formal worship is that collective gathering together of the people of God, or of an individual, to perform commanded acts of worship to God. Informal worship is other types of reverence or devotion, showed to God, apart from formally called or organized worship.

To say that one is not worship, or is less important than the other, is doing dishonor to God. All of these offerings by God's people were regarded as sweet smelling savors, when done according to His Will.

WHAT IS SINGING?

Also important to our discussion is the understanding of singing. Choirs and solos fall under this form of worship. Has God commanded singing? If so, what kind of singing?

When the early church met together for worship they sang praises to God. In Ephesians 5:19 we read, speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord. Paul also told the Colossian brethren, 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 (Colossians 3:16). In both of these passages the command is to sing. This singing was done collectively by the entire church, all at the same time. How do we know this? First, these verses confirm this fact. They both use a reflexive pronoun in the Greek, which is to one another. This indicates action being done at the same time by two or more individuals. The idea is you do it to me and I do it to you, at the same time.

History also confirms that the early church participated only in congregational singing. Why? Because this was the pattern or example left by the apostles.

What is the purpose of singing? First, singing is done to praise and glorify God. Secondly, we again refer to Paul's words in Colossians 3:16: teaching and admonishing." Singing is used to teach God's message, and to encourage us, as we are obeying His will. Therefore, in singing, we praise God, teach others, and we are encouraged as we participate.

Continued next week