

The Oologah Informer

April 30th, 2017

Should We Sing During the Lord's Supper

From the "Truth for the World" Website
Part 2 of 3

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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:

No Shame (**Luke 13:1-5**)

PM Sermon

The Walk

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Characters of the O.T.

Wednesday Bible Class:

Proverbs – R. Earl

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love on Channel 47

Sundays @ 8am

Oologah Media Network

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There also are many New Testament passages that provide teaching and examples of singing praises to God (Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; I Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12, 13:15; James 5:13). Besides being vocal music (that is, distinctly spoken without the use of instruments), Scripture describes the act of singing as a means of speaking to, teaching and admonishing one another (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). It involves a thoughtful consideration and sincere expression from the heart, as well as attentiveness to the voices of others. As such, singing requires the use of both spirit and mind (I Corinthians 14:15) and touches the lives of those who hear it (Acts 16:25). From these passages, we see that there are two aspects to our singing in the worship assembly. We give praises and honor to Almighty God and we edify each other as we listen and speak to one another in song.

The Bible clearly authorizes Christians to sing and partake of the Lord's Supper in separate acts during the worship assembly on the first day of the week. However, where do we find the authority to combine the two together as offerings to God? Following our proposed approach, we search the Scriptures looking for three things. One, specific teaching from Jesus or the inspired authors of the New Testament endorsing the practice. Two, examples approved by the Apostles of singing during the Lord's Supper offered by faithful Christians. Or three, some insight and basic approval provided by an Apostle's discussion or corrective teaching dealing with related issues of worship.

What do we find in Scripture? First of all, there is no teaching either from Jesus or the Apostles supporting the practice of singing while partaking of the Lord's Supper. Furthermore, there are no biblical examples of Christians doing so in the worship assembly. It is true that Jesus and the Apostles did sing before departing to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30), but this took place after they had eaten the bread and partaken of the fruit of the vine (Matthew 26:26-30). I Corinthians 10:16-22; 11:17-34 and Acts 20:7 all refer to the Lord's Supper, but none of the passages says anything about singing. Looking elsewhere, a full examination of the verses dealing with singing uncovers no mention of the Lord's Supper. Since the Scriptures are silent, we can appeal to neither the direct teachings of Jesus and the Apostles, nor to examples of approved worship as a means to authorize and justify the practice. Can we draw any conclusions from the discussion and corrective teachings found in the Epistles? Yes, we can! First of all, we learn that it is possible to

partake of the Lord's Supper in an unacceptable manner. In I Corinthians 11:17-34, Paul rebukes the Corinthian church for their neglect of fellow Christians and their failure to give due attention to the importance of the Lord's Supper as they turned it into an ordinary feast. In fact, this was the problem that led to his teaching on the important aspects of remembrance, proclamation and self-examination that were being neglected. Secondly, we know from I Corinthians 14 that there are other ways by which men can conduct themselves improperly in the assembly. The entire chapter deals with Paul's efforts to restore proper order to their worship. Specifically, those with the miraculous gift of speaking in tongues (foreign languages) were doing so publicly without an interpreter. This lifeless message was without profit (I Corinthians 14:6-11) and indeed thought to be the speech of one who is out of his mind by those visitors who could hear but not understand (I Corinthians 14:23). In rebuking the practice, Paul cited the importance of speaking to men for edification, exhortation and consolation (I Corinthians 14:2-3). Hence, the value of prophecy (that is, inspired teaching in their language) was emphasized so the Lord's Church could grow spiritually and be edified (I Corinthians 14:12). Paul continues teaching that both spirit and mind must be actively engaged in worship, be it through praying, singing or instructing others (I Corinthians 14:13-19). His objective was to eliminate confusion in the assembly and to build up the body by restoring purpose and value to their worship through the clarity of a meaningful message understandable by all. Paul concluded with several directives.

Part 3

Next week