A SONG FOR THE SINGERS

Psalm 47:6-7 KJV

[6] Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. [7] For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.

A friend of mine said that he felt that some of our more modern songs and hymns lack good theology.  A contemporary song writer from the late seventies said he was afraid that many of the newer contemporary Christian songs do not carry the story of Christ.  The psalmist says for the singers to sing praises with understanding.  We have a lot of praise lines that we can sing over and over but we lack the real story of Christ in them.  We sing good words but we are lacking any theology.

We have a hymn entitled “Tell Me the Story of Jesus.” In that hymn, there is a prayer that is simple but powerful, “write on my heart every word.” The singer desires the understanding that can only be granted by God. When we sing with understanding our theology will be correct. Someone made the statement one time that they believed there was more theology in the hymns written by Charles Wesley than in the sermons preached by John Wesley. I am not trying to start a debate but I am stating my case for the necessity of our songs and hymns having good scriptural substance to them. They must be more than lines that rhyme and have a good musical rhythm.

The hymn by Fanny Crosby, “Blessed Assurance,” gives us a truth. Through submitting to Christ we receive blessings of peace, security, happiness and the glorious hope of Heaven. If we sing this song with understanding we will truly be blessed. God has added his anointing to this hymn so that if we sing this song throughout the day, not just at church but at work or doing our chores it will inspire us and draw us closer to God.

We are asked all the time to pay attention to the words of a particular song. This is important because our songs should carry a message about Savior. Most of our songs are written in a way that makes it easy for us to remember them. If I were to sing “Amazing grace how sweet the sound….” Could you finish that verse? Most of you could very easily. We have heard it numerous times and we have sung it just as many times. It is written in a way that people easily identify with it. My prayer is that it is not a mere page full of words but rather a hymn filled with grace that carries us through difficulties and battles of life and finally to glory! Sing! Sing! Sing! But pray to understand what you are singing!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram