

## *The Musical Mind of God ... Chapter 4*

### *Music in the New Testament*

*In this final installment of “The Musical Mind of God,” I would like to spend some time with the writings of the New Testament and examine several scriptures pertaining to the gift of music in the Church.*

*In the book of Corinthians, the apostle Paul talks about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He wrote about the use and purpose of the gifts in the lives of the brethren. The Corinthians were inexperienced and lacked spiritual maturity in countless ways. Paul had to spend time instructing them about the many facets of the Holy Spirit and helping them to understand the main purpose for receiving the gifts; which was to edify one another.*

*There are numerous gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12, from “the word of knowledge” to “the gift of healing”; however, there is no mention of music until chapter fourteen.*

#### ***1 Corinthians 14:26:***

*How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.*

*Among the five gifts mentioned, the passage shows us that “all” of the members had something to offer the Church, not just one or two individuals.*

*Secondly, among the gifts, “having a psalm” is mentioned. It is actually listed first in the description of various gifts. Although it may not have been the most important gift, it was certainly expected to be part of the fellowship meeting when the brethren got together.*

*The letters of Ephesians and Colossians have references to the musical gifts as well;*

#### ***Ephesians 5:19–20:***

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

*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

#### ***Colossians 3:16:***

*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 to the Lord.*

*Paul's comment in Colossians seems somewhat confusing when he makes the statement: "admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs." The wording in the King James version is awkward and seems to imply that they were to correct each other by "singing songs."*

*The English definition of the word "admonishing" is a "strong reproof." Strong's defines it as: to caution or to reprove gently.*

*If we separate the phrase "teaching and admonishing one another" from "with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs," we see that it fits more in context with "teaching" being the means by which gentle correction is applied and "singing spiritual songs"; the means by which praise to God comes.*

**Hebrews 13:15** *continues the thought and adds the metaphor of "the sacrifice of praise" as opposed to the "sacrifice of bulls and goats."*

*By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

*In the book of Revelation, there are visions of the saints singing songs; these are celebratory songs marking the victory "over the beast"!*

**Revelation 15:2:**

*And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.*

*And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*

**Revelation 14:1-3:**

*And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.*

*And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:*

*And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.*

*As cryptic as these verses may seem, it is interesting to note the inclusion of music as part of the celebrations.*

*As we conclude our investigation into “The Musical Mind of God,” we must pay tribute to the Father and the Son for bestowing on us the wonderful gift of music. It is difficult to imagine our world being devoid of its presence. We have been deeply moved and inspired by heartfelt performances of talented musicians throughout our lives. Music somehow lifts our spirit and causes us to appreciate the artistic side of our nature.*

*In **Hebrews 2:10–13**, we find a very moving vision of Jesus Christ, the creator of the universe, singing a song of praise to his Father with the Church surrounding him.*

*For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

*For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

*Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*

*We can only imagine what that solo will sound like.*

*Maybe we can sing with him in harmony someday?*

*Mark Rusinko*