Psalms Hymns and Spiritual Songs

Adam Willingham · Ephesians 5:19

INTRODUCTION

- Why is it that we do not use instruments when we have our song worship here at this church?
- We don't read of using instruments in the New Testament. We read of singing.
- We're going to try to answer the question today do these verses justify using instruments in worship?

1 Singing to One Another

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

- We're singing to the Lord, but we're also singing to one another.
- There is a very real sense in which we are teaching one another and warning one another in our singing.
- Singing is not only a way to be encouraged, it's a way to be educated.
- When we all sing to one another, we are all teaching one another.

2 Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

1 Corinthians 14:26; Matthew 26:30

- Here in Ephesians and Colossians, I think that Psalms would definitely include the book of Psalms.
- We're not only exhorted to sing Psalms, but also hymns and spiritual songs.
- Hymns from everything I've studied refers to songs of praise.
- After singing a hymn, they went out of the Mount of Olives.
- Spiritual songs. Literally spiritual odes. This seems to be sort of a catch-all term.

3 Making Melody With Your Heart

- If we don't engage the heart in our singing, then it's an empty exercise. It's futile. It's useless.
- You gotta mean it. You've got to think about it. It's got to come from the depths of your being.
- What you ought to be thinking about is the beauty of the message.
- God is more concerned with the inaudible melody than he is with the audible melody.

4 The Argument Regarding the Word Psalmos

1 Corinthians 14:26

- The argument is that the word psalmos means a song accompanied by an instrument.
- The word psalmos itself does not always mean a song accompanied by an instrument.
- Words mean different things in different contexts.
- The context is really ultimately what matters. The context indicates singing, not playing an instrument.
- Paul specifies how to use the Psalms, and that is to sing them.

5 The Psallo Argument: Making Melody

Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; James 5:13

- The argument is that the word, translated making melody in Ephesians 5.19, means to pluck an instrument.
- By the first century, it really could be used to mean to sing. And without any indication of an instrument at all.
- We need to understand the word as it was used in the first century.
- The context in Ephesians 5.19 and Colossians 3.16 mentions no instrument as the object.
- The spiritual fulfillment is to pluck the instrument of your heart.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **And so let us be people who serve God with the whole man. Not just outwardly, but inwardly.**

MY NOTES