

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Brian Horner
Song Leader: Kyle Richardson
Opening Prayer: Ken Grandstaff
Lord's Supper
Presiding: Howell Todd
Serving: Eric Horne
Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Brian Horner
Closing Prayer: Howell Todd

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Brian Horner
Preaching: Brian Horner
Closing Prayer: Howell Todd

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Kyle Richardson
Devotional: Brian Horner
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Serving Next Sunday:

Lord's Supper: Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Howell Todd
Opening Prayer: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Kyle Richardson

To all our visitors - Welcome!
We hope you will come back
and worship with us soon!

TEAM MEETINGS

Correspondence - Sunday evenings after worship see Kyle Richardson.

Visitation/Bible Study - For assignments see Brian Horner.

Member Care - Regarding Member needs contact Kyle Richardson.

Flower Request - Please call Lynda Ann Sparkman: 444.0938(h) 587.8187(c)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Business Meeting:

After services this evening.

Sign Up!

Plenty of spots open for cleaning the building and yard work.

Pantry:

Please let Howell know of anyone in our community who needs help!

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the Word

(Rom 10:17)

Believe in Jesus

(John 8:24)

Repent of your sins

(Luke 13:3)

Confess faith in Christ

(Rom 10:10)

Be **Baptized** for forgiveness of sins

(Acts 2:38)

Live **Faithfully**

(1 Cor. 15:58)

Daily Bible Reading

Day	Scripture
Sunday (<i>Epistles</i>)	Romans 13-14
Monday (<i>The Law</i>)	Genesis 24-27
Tuesday (<i>History</i>)	Judges 7-11
Wednesday (<i>Psalms</i>)	Psalms 18-20
Thursday (<i>Poetry</i>)	Job 13-14
Friday (<i>Prophecy</i>)	Isaiah 34-39
Saturday (<i>Gospels</i>)	Matthew 17-19

Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

February 17, 2013

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM

Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

The Design of Worshiping in Song

In **Isaiah 55:8-9** God says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Many use this passage to speak of God's ineffable and inscrutable attributes. There are other passages that teach such (e.g., **Job 26:14**, **Romans 11:33**), but this verse is not speaking of those things. Rather, these verses teach that it is God's purposes that are so much higher than man's, and with human wisdom alone it is impossible to know God's purposes.

In contrast, the general trend of religious thought today is that man's purposes are God's purposes. And perhaps this is seen most clearly in contemporary "Christian" music, the primary design of which is to stir human emotion to such a fevered pitch that weeping, wailing, crying, caterwauling, and the so called ecstatic state are produced. These emotional outpourings satisfy human purposes because they are quintessentially human. Worship, however, must move beyond the human and into the divine in order to be true worship. "God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship in spirit and in truth" (**John 4:24**).

Turning our attention to God's design for worship in song, we find that emotional fulfillment has little (if any) to do with New Testament teaching on the subject. First, all Christian music is music produced by the human voice alone. This in and of itself should rebuke the contemporary cacophony of choruses accompanied with the multitudinous mechanically manufactured modulations. Such artificially produced reverberations doubtlessly bring praise to human prowess, but do not glorify God; indeed such exaltation of human righteousness is without submission to the righteousness of God (**Romans 10:2-3**).

The lips, mouth, tongue, and voice, however, are God's design, and when accompanied by the melodic stirrings of the heart, another of God's creation, they harmonize with resonance divine (**Ephesians 5:19**, **Colossians 3:16**). We see, then, that one great purpose of worshipping

Abortion is Murder

Just a few weeks ago (January 22, 2013), we observed the 40th anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade case that has opened the doors to the ungodly act of abortion. Nevertheless, the emotions still run high over the multitudes of murders that doctors have committed in the past four decades. Roughly thirty percent (30%) of all pregnancies today in America are ending in abortion. Nevertheless, just because our nation may legalize something, this does not make it morally right in the eyes of God. I believe the Bible teaches that abortion is indeed murder for the following four reasons.

First, abortion is murder because a baby is human life. The fetus in the womb of the mother is not animal life, vegetable life or plant life. It is human life. Children in the womb of their mother are special objects of the love and concern of God Almighty (**Ps. 139:13-17**). In fact, God spoke of Jeremiah as he was in the womb of his mother: "*Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations*" (**Jer. 1:5**). The same is true of John the Baptizer (**Luke 1:41**).

Second, abortion is murder because it transgresses the "Golden Rule." Jesus plainly declared, "*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets*" (**Matt. 7:12**). How would anyone feel if our mothers aborted us before we could even voice our opinion? Would we want a doctor to kill us, as if we are in the womb of our mother, just as poor innocent children are slaughtered every day?

Third, abortion is murder because it contradicts the deepest and most basic human instinct of protecting our offspring. As a father, I would literally die for my children if necessary. I know many fathers and mothers would say the same. Only those who allow Satan to influence them so severely will lose this "natural affection" (cf. **Rom. 1:31**).

Fourth, abortion is murder because it is primarily rooted in selfishness. The facts declare that 93% of all abortions occur for birth control. Less than one percent occurs for victims of rape or incest.

Yet, the good news today is that one may find forgiveness, even of the sin of abortion. It does not matter where you began, but what you become. We have all made mistakes (**Rom. 3:23**), but God can bring good things even out of bad decisions for those who repent and confess their faults.

I would like to add one final thought—although I disagree passionately about the issue of abortion, I do not approve of murder and violence in any way. Protesting such immoralities does not give anyone the right to commit violent acts (i.e., bombing abortion clinics), even when we disagree with the sanction of our government concerning such things. The way to approach such immorality is not with violence, but with victory in Jesus. Jesus gave us a great example of how to deal with such issues—we protest through our teaching and connecting with people. We show them the right way to live by living a life of faith in Jesus Christ. We are to be "*meek and lowly in heart*" (**Matt. 11:28**). Let us all strive to live moral lives rooted in the gospel of Jesus!

Sam Willcut
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(continued from page 1)...

God in song is to bring glory to Him by the instrument of His creation; it is God who gives us the songs in the night (**Job 35:10**). He is not worshipped by manmade things, but is the ever giving God who brings musical harmony to our whole being, heart, soul, and body (**Acts 17:25**).

Hebrews 13:15 reveals that by cultivating the "*fruit of lips*" we "*offer the sacrifice of praise to God.*" Such sacrifices cannot come forth from leathern tympanis, wooden organs, or brazen strings – only the "fruit of lips" will suffice. Praises to God must be sung, because praises to God can only be spoken in words, the "fruit of lips." The principles of sacrifice found in the Old Covenant teach us that God deserves the best, that sacrifice must personally cost us something, and that one must be wholly devoted. Singing is the only musical act of worship that satisfies all of these principles. The "sacrifice of praise" is a purpose that must be honored in our singing.

Another great purpose of singing is found in **Colossians 3:16**: "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*" When we sing the words of Christ, we teach and admonish. So many contemporary lyrics fail to provide this needed aspect of Christian music. Songs of the New Testament period were originally composed to instruct, and even rebuke. Today we have few songs in our songbooks that employ these didactic tools. The contemporary "Christian" composers have left this purpose behind in their quest to glorify man.

What is the place of emotion in singing? Human emotions must flow out of the God given purposes that are fulfilled in song, and must never be the object of our worship. If the singing rebukes, we should feel ashamed. If the singing exhorts, we should feel edified. If the singing is glorifying God, we should feel humbled, awestruck even. Whatever the particular intent of the individual song, the goal is to empty ourselves unto God in fulfillment of His purposes first, and, like the obedient eunuch, the result will be that we will go on our way rejoicing (**Acts 8:39**). God's design for worship in song is for His praise glory and honor, and our instruction and rebuke. May we ever seek to fulfill God's design.

Kevin Cauley - churchofchristbulletins.com

Remember in Prayer

Shut Ins:

Fannie Bell Warren
Janelle Arrington
William Wells

Others:

Hollis Cluck
Muril Todd
Karen Hudson - cancer
Christy Garrett
The Bryan Family
Annie and JW Smith
Margie Taylor
Priscilla and Patrick Graves
Jessica Richardson
Dan Smith
Diane Grandstaff and family
Joe Allen
Linda Kay Edwards - surgery recovery
Janice Garrett
Carol Goins - Mary L.'s sister
Lila Kirk
Wanda Gates - cancer
Kathy Greer
Jeff Greenblatt - auto accident
Forbes Family

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests: Kyle Richardson (495-7106) Dorothy Jean Smith (444-5437)

February Birthdays:

24 - Delores Wright