

A New Song

Joe Slater

Six times in the Psalms, once in Isaiah, and twice in Revelation, Scripture speaks of “a new song.” Invariably it has to do with deliverance or salvation of some kind.

Psalm 33:3 exhorts, “*Sing to Him a new song.*” Why? Among many other reasons, “*the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him . . . to **deliver** their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine*” (vv. 18-19).

David had salvation from sin in Psalm 40:3 – “*He has put a new song in my mouth.*” What prompted this song? “*My iniquities have overtaken Me . . . they are more than the hairs of my head . . . Be pleased, O Lord, to **deliver** me*” (vv. 12-13).

A more temporal “salvation” resulted in a new song in the other psalms. “*Sing to the Lord a new song . . . Proclaim the good news of His **salvation** from day to day*” Psalm 96:1. “*O sing to the Lord a new song . . . His right hand and His holy arm have gained the **victory**. The Lord has made known His **salvation***” (Psalm 98:1-2). “*I will sing a new song to You, O God . . . the One who gives **salvation** to kings, who **delivers** David His servant from the deadly sword*” (Psalm 144:9-10). “*Sing to the Lord a new song*” (Psalm 149:1) is followed by a call for the destruction of Israel’s enemies.

Isaiah’s call for a new song (Isaiah 42:10) anticipates the spiritual salvation that Jesus would provide in the Messianic age. That salvation has become a reality in Revelation 5:9 as the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders “sang a new song” praising Jesus the Lamb for being slain, redeeming us by His blood, and making us a royal priesthood. Innumerable angels and all of creation join in this song in 5:11-13. The great body of the redeemed in Revelation 14:3 is also said to sing a new song.

Salvation naturally results in singing praise! Do you have a new song in your heart?

Acceptable Worship

Religious people these days are clamoring for more exciting and appealing ways to conduct worship services. Lost in the shuffle is that fact that we do not determine what is acceptable worship. We merely recognize what God has authorized in His inspired word. Sadly enough, in an effort to attract larger crowds, some have turned their backs on God’s word in preference to human wisdom. While there are scriptural ways of enhancing the effectiveness of worship, the “get-them-in-the-building-at-all-costs” philosophy is filled with pitfalls that undermine the mission of the church for which Jesus died (Acts 20:28). Not everything done in the name of worship is acceptable to God. Nadab and Abihu lost their lives because they sought to incorporate into their worship that which was unauthorized (Leviticus 10:1-3 cf. Exodus 30:34-38).

In Colossians 3:16-17, Paul writes: “*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all the name [by the authority] of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*” So, in the context of dealing specifically with an item of worship, singing, the inspired writer says that whatever we do must be done by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Respecting the authority of Jesus Christ means that we will not add to or take away from His regulations for worship. Burning incense along with prayer or playing instruments along with singing are additions to God’s instructions regarding worship. Jesus said, “*God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth*” (John 4:24). God has regulated worship in the word of truth (John 17:17). By studying His word, we can recognize acceptable worship. Everything else offered to God in worship is rejected simply because it has not been authorized by Jesus Christ.

God knows how He want to be worshiped. He has given instructions as to how we must worship Him acceptably. Any changes in worship procedure must fall within the bounds of God’s inspired word. Otherwise, our worship experience becomes little more than a sounding board for our own selfish preferences. May God help us as we seek to worship and serve Him alone! (Matthew 4:10).

–Glen Elliott (Greenbriar, AR)

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Purpose?

“Everything happens for a reason!” Often said, but wrong! Scripture says, “*Time and chance happen to all*” (Ecclesiastes 9:11).

When Adam sinned and was shut away from the tree of life, God cursed man and the earth. At that time all the circumstances that bring death were set loose. When disease germs invade a body with low resistance, sickness and sometimes death occur. When a moving car hits an immovable bridge abutment it comes to a sudden stop but the people in the car do not stop unless restrained by a seatbelt. That law of physics applies equally to Christians and non-Christians, to good people and evil people.

God may, in His providence, manipulate circumstances to prevent particular deaths; but He does not usually decide “this person will die for this reason”. Death and other unpleasant events happen to all because sin is in the world.

--Cecil May, Jr. (Montgomery, AL) via [Preacher Talk](#)

I am writing a book about all the things I should be doing. It’s an oughtobiography!