

Sing!

Ponder: How important is it to sing? How important is it to sing well?

Scripture: ". . . teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16b, NKJV).

"I can't carry a tune in a bucket!" "If I sing, everyone else will leave!" How many times have you heard these, or similar excuses, offered to justify remaining silent in church while others sing?

Some people really are tone deaf. But the Lord never said, "Sing only if you have perfect pitch." Bless the hearts of those brothers and sisters who sing enthusiastically, even if they are a bit off-key! Singing isn't a performance to show others how talented we are. The same is true, by the way, for all the avenues of worship in which we participate.

Brother Vernon Curry tells the following story: "A friend of mine enjoys turkey hunting. He has a good calling ability. One spring he was hunting and heard someone calling. He said it was the worst job of calling he had ever heard. He thought surely it would improve, but it did not. So, when he could stand it no longer, he began to slip up on the caller to see who it was. He finally got pretty close, and then he saw - a turkey hen calling for a gobbler!" He then realized that the 'art' of calling may not be what man thinks it is.

Surely that is true for singing, too. Perfect pitch, precise rhythm, and just the right tempo are all fine, but they are not the goal. We strive to glorify God and build one another up. Let us focus on these spiritual aspects, rather than being caught up in the mechanics of the music.

Hymnals used to have only words; when hymnals with musical notes above or below the words first came out, some opposed them. They saw notes as an undue emphasis on the mechanics of singing. I'm not opposed to hymnals with notes, but I understand the concern.

Regardless of whether you can read music or carry the proverbial "tune in a bucket," I encourage you to sing! God will be glorified, and the church will be edified.