

Fort Payne church of Christ



The Weekly Moment

A Weekly Motivational Message

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Invitation In Song

Singing has been a part of man's relationship with God since the time of Moses (and maybe before). God's people have sung songs of praise to God for generations. David was a master songwriter and wrote dozens of songs (psalms) for different reasons.

In the New Testament, Paul urged men saying, ***"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"*** (Eph 5:19). He also instructed us that we should teach and admonish in song: ***"teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."*** (Col 3:16). Truly, God expects singing to be part of our worship to Him and in *"teaching and admonishing"* other Christians.

Typically, after a sermon is preached, an "invitation" will be offered to encourage those who heard the Word to respond to it. In doing so, we sing a song as a further way to encourage. Many great songs have been written over the years that do that in the words of the song as well as the title of the song.

Recently, I was given a copy of *"An Invitation from Songs"* written by Crystal Cherry from the Red Boiling Springs church of Christ in Red Boiling Springs, TN. She did an excellent job of using the titles and lyrics of songs found in our hymnals to create an invitation to respond to the Word of God.

An Invitation from Songs

We have all heard about invitation songs ... But how about An Invitation from Songs? Jerry Cherry, while extending the Lord's invitation following a Sunday evening song service at the Red Boiling Springs Church of Christ (TN), read some material composed by his wife, Crystal. Inspired by the New Testament story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15), Crystal utilized song titles and lyrics to form a modern form of the prodigal son. After some introductory comments, Jerry read the following to the congregation.

"A Beautiful Life" was given to me by the **"God of Our Fathers."** He gave me a mother and father

who cared for me **"Softly and Tenderly."** **"In My Father's House"** I learned that **"God is so Good"**. They wanted to **"Give Me the Bible."** **"In the Hush of the Morning"** we had a **"Sweet Hour of Prayer"**, and in the **"Sunlight"** I saw **"All Things Bright and Beautiful."** I did **"Consider the Lilies of the Field,"** **"Down in the Valley"**. **"One Day"** **"Stepping in the Light,"** I heard **"Even Winds Whisper His Name."** I found **"Peace in the Valley."** My mother taught me to **"Sing and Be Happy,"** while my father taught me to **"Praise Him, Praise Him."** They taught me that **"It Pays to Serve Jesus"** and that **"Jesus Loves Me."** We went to **"The Church in the Wildwood."** I lived in the **"Paradise Valley"** and had **"Peace, Perfect Peace"** as a child. But with the **"Sands of Time"**, I grew into a younger man. I was soon full of **"Angry Words"** and I wanted to **"Flee as a Bird."** One **"Silent Night"**, **"I Traveled Down a Lonely Road."** **"Farther Along"** as I was **"Walking Alone at Eve"**, it started to rain. I sought **"Shelter in the Time of Storm."** But I soon realized **"I am a Stranger here."** **"In Sorrow I Wandered"**, **"Drifting Along"**, and soon **"I Was Sinking Deep in Sin."** **"Years I Spent in Vanity"** and had, **"Trials Dark on Every Hand."** **"In the Desert of Sorrow and Sin"**, **"I Saw the Light"** and **"He Leadeth Me"** to **"The Old Rugged Cross."** I was **"Washed in the Blood"** and **"All to Jesus I surrender."** Through **"Amazing Grace"** I found the **"Rock of Ages."** You see, **"Jesu Paid it All"** **"On the Cross of Calvary"** that **"I Might Be Redeemed."** **"There is Power in the Blood"** and **"Worthy is the Lamb."** **"Hallelujah, What a Savior!"** Now, **"I'll Never Forsake My Lord."** He's **"A Wonderful Savior"** to me. **"I'm Not Afraid"** for **"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"** and that I am **"Safe in the Arms of Jesus."** I am a **"New Creature"** **"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms."** **"Under His Wings"** I will return home to have **"Peace, Like a River."** I will **"Reach Out"** to my parents and ask them to forgive me. **"Bind Us Together Lord"**, **"God's Family."**

You know, I will now **"Ring Out the Message"** and tell others to **"Listen to the Wondrous Story."** **"Pass it On"** and **"Tell Them of Jesus."** If you are lost in sin, **"Why do You Wait, Dear Brother?"** It is **"Only a Step."** **"Yield Not to Temptation."** **"Why Keep Jesus Waiting?"** **"Will You Come?"**

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Think about it.

Here's hoping you'll make the *"most of your minutes"* this week.

Hope to see you at Bible Study tonight.

In Christian Love,

Bob Strickland