

I. Philosophy of Music

Music is basic to a truly Christian education. The Bible is filled with references to music. It establishes music making as an important part of worship for all Christians. The two-pronged goal of a Christ-centered music program should be to enable a child not only to participate in uplifting musical activities but also to make the kinds of musical choices that will build him up in the Lord. If we are to assist students in growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ (II Peter 3:18), then the subjects they study should relate directly to this goal.¹

II. Instructional Goals and Biblical Truths

Music is close to the very heart of God. The study of music shows us the avenue to draw closer to our creator.

1. Music is heavens way to deliver messages of warning as well as celebration.

In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (Zephaniah 3:17)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (I Thessalonians 4:16, 17)

And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. (Revelation 14:2, 3)

2. Music is an expression of the beauty and nature of God.

Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth. (1 Chronicles 16:23, 33)

The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with grain; they shout for joy, they also sing. (Psalm 65:13)

¹Kuehmann, Karen and Tipton, Nancy. Music for Christian Schools. 1989. Bob Jones University Press. v.

3. Music is God's gift to us.²

God made man's voice, the most complex of instruments.³

So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? . . . Have not I the Lord? (Exodus 4:11)

God gave man the ability to invent musical instruments.⁴

Four thousand praised the Lord with musical instruments, "which I made," said David, "for giving praise." (1 Chronicles 23:5)

God gives us the ability to write music.⁵

And God gave Solomon wisdom exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore . . . He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five. (I Kings 4:29-32)

Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night . . . (Job 35:10)

4. Music can bring about or celebrate Victory.

Gideon defeats the Midianites. (Judge 7)

The Song of Deborah. (Judges 5)

5. Down through the ages, music has been used to record history, customs and events.

Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves; and teach it to the children of Israel; put in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel. (Deuteronomy 31:19)

6. Music can be a primary means of worshipping God.

When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "He is good; his love endures forever." (2 Chronicles 7:3)

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." (Exodus 3:12)

²Haycock, Dr. Ruth C. Encyclopedia of Bible Truths for School Subjects. 1993. Association of Christian Schools International. 338.

³Haycock. p. 341.

⁴Haycock. p. 341.

⁵Haycock. p. 342.

7. Music is a way we express our emotions and faith in God.

And sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb:

"Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the ages. (Revelation 15:3)

The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation . . . (Exodus 15:2)

8. Music can be an effective tool for developing discernment, holiness and godliness in the life of a Christian.⁶

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy. (Psalm 99:9)

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—(Titus 1:1)

⁶Kuehmann, Karen and Tipton, Nancy. Music for Christian Schools. 1989. Bob Jones University Press. v.