

## Light and Life

## Why Do We Sing?

“I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing **aloud** of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble” (Ps. 59:16). “I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You **among the Gentiles**” (Ps. 57:9). “Sing to the Lord, bless His name; **proclaim the good news** of His salvation from day to day” (Ps. 96:2).

God is not silent about why He wants us to sing. What it boils down to is communication. Mechanical instruments do not produce the same clarity of thought as well-crafted words that are sung – and neither do the ornamental ‘oohs’ and ‘ahhs’ that serve no purpose beyond tickling the ears. When we sing in worship, we communicate a specific message to the hearers.

Worship in song (if the words are well-crafted) is, by design, both evangelistic and edifying. As repeated throughout the Psalms, we proclaim the good news among the Gentiles as we sing aloud! Like Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail, we should want the unsaved to hear **the message** through our singing (Ac. 16:25). And we should also want the saved to hear the message! After all, we are “speaking to one another” (Ep. 5:19), and “teaching and admonishing one another” (Col. 3:16) in our songs!

If we understand the purpose behind our singing, we will sing songs that communicate truth effectively. False teaching can be learned from a hymn as well as a sermon, so let’s be careful what we are communicating! Additionally, some songs are so musically complicated that the message gets lost.

Finally, because of the purpose of singing, we must individually sing out! It doesn’t matter to God how we sound – it matters what we communicate! If no one else can hear us sing, the purposes of singing are not accomplished! So, let’s sing together!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Was God’s Wrath Poured Out on Christ?

Satan is described as a liar and a thief – an adversary set on devouring humanity like a lion devours his prey. And after their sin, Adam and Eve were his. What would you do if your child was kidnapped by someone like that?

God the Father unleashed His fury, not on Adam and Eve, but on their captor. Adam and Eve would have consequences, yes, but the full force of Godhead would be unleashed on the one who stole God’s children. The devil’s open act of war would engage the army of the Lord of Heaven. This enemy would be crushed (Ge 3:15).

The incarnate Christ took the battle to Satan the only way He could: by becoming man, dying, and taking back what was rightfully His – His children. His death on the cross “disarmed principalities and powers; He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (Col. 3:15).

Jesus’ first public reading of scripture quoted a prophecy of Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me... He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives...” (Is 61:1).

Atonement for sins was never achieved by Jesus being the whipping post for a vengeful God. Atonement was given as a gift, an act of mercy for lost children taken captive by an enemy they couldn’t escape on their own.

Jesus is our Levitical atonement (Le 16). He carried our sins back to the enemy saying, “You can keep this. I will take what is mine”. And with the resurrection, Jesus climbed out of the grave with you and me in his blood-stained grasp. And now, “According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pe 1:3).

- Serena DeGarmo (edited for space)

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## RADIO PROGRAM

### The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00–9:30a.m.  
Thursday 11:30a.m.–noon  
KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

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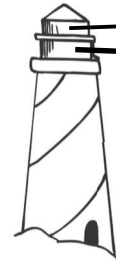
**The Bible: the best  
sermon resource book.**

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Perry Johnson  
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Alan Revier  
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# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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## Finding the Joy in Life

*“I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel.” - Ph 1:12*

When Paul wrote these words to the church at Philippi, he was in a prison cell in Rome. And he was there as a direct result of preaching the gospel. It was a situation that most of us would find discouraging; yet Paul was able to see the ‘silver lining’ behind the ‘cloud’. Instead of dwelling on his unpleasant circumstances or complaining about the injustice of it all – which he warned against later in the book, 2:14-15 – Paul was able to see the good in it. And that’s a lesson for us all.

How was Paul able to stay so positive in such a situation? Look down the page: *“I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account”* (vss 23-24).

Discouragement can have many different causes – some physical, some mental, and some spiritual (note our 3-fold nature, 1 Th 5:23). Having a more ‘spiritual focus’ is not the answer in every situation. But often it is. When that is the case, we need to refocus on the ‘big picture’ and find the joy in it (Ph 4:4-7) – **as Paul did!** - *WKing*

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.  
*Sick:* Fletchers, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader  
*Shut-ins:* Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, Virgil Carter, ADosier  
*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**WELCOME!** – We welcome two new members to the family at Downtown:  
Andrea Carey and Rebecca Westbrook! Let’s all help them feel at home!

**SENTENCE SERMON** – What people possesses is not nearly as important as what possesses them (Jn 8:34).