

“Worship Wars”

March 16, 2008 * Psalm 149

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” ~ Colossians 3:16

I. What ‘weapons’ does God give us to fight for purity in Col.3:16?

- A. The weapon of the _____ of _____.
- B. The weapon of Christian _____.
- C. The weapon of _____ through _____.

II. Some Preliminary Thoughts From Colossians 3:16-17

A. Worship is _____ from music.

1. What is ‘worship’?

Giving to God the _____ & _____ that is due Him.

B. Worship begins in my _____ and flows out from there.

C. Because worship is a heart-thing first, it can be expressed in _____ of ways. (Col.3:17)

Only when we understand these first three points can we assert this:

God has ordained music as one of the _____ ways for expressing our worship to him, and when we worship God through music, it becomes a _____ which empowers us for purity.

II. God Has Ordained Music As One Of the Primary Ways of Worship

A. Verses which mention singing:

B. Where do we encounter music on a typical day?

The average teenager listens to _____ hours of music a day.

C. Psalm 149 – A Manual For Worship

1. According to this, where are we to worship?

2. And how are we to worship?

3. According to this, why are we to worship?

III. When We Worship, It Becomes A Weapon Which Empowers Us For Purity

- A. While these words may seem OTT, what stories would the ancient Jew have remembered from Scripture?
- B. Do we have any enemies that want to attack us today?
- C. What actually is going on whenever we gather in Jesus’ name to worship the Living God?

IV. How Do I Use This Weapon of Worship?

First: fill my life with _____.

- A. What are we **not** saying?
 1. That we should only listen to _____ music.
 2. That certain types of music are inherently _____.

B. What **are** we saying?

1. Have large amount of Christian music in your musical _____.
2. You need to pay _____ to the rest of what you’re listening to.

Music is powerful because it can slip past your _____ self and pass straight through to your emotional self. From there, it shapes your _____ which can then shape your _____ and behavior.

3. What would we say to someone who claims they don’t listen to the words, they just like the music?
4. How do we determine what is good or bad for us?

Second: _____ how to worship. Suggestions:

“Worship Wars”

March 16, 2008 * Psalm 149

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” ~ Colossians 3:16

I. What ‘weapons’ does God give us to fight for purity in Col.3:16?

- A. The weapon of the **Word** of **God**.
- B. The weapon of Christian **fellowship**.
- C. The weapon of **worship** through **music**.

II. Some Preliminary Thoughts From Colossians 3:16-17

- A. Worship is **different** from music.
 1. What is ‘worship’?
Giving to God the **honor** & **glory** that is due Him.
- B. Worship begins in my **heart** and flows out from there.
- C. Because worship is a heart-thing first, it can be expressed in **hundreds** of ways. (Col.3:17)

Only when we understand these first three points can we assert this: God has ordained music as one of the **primary** ways for expressing our worship to him, and when we worship God through music, it becomes a **weapon** which empowers us for purity.

II. God Has Ordained Music As One Of the Primary Ways of Worship

- A. Verses which mention singing:
One-third of the 150 Psalms mention singing to God.
(Examples: Ps.5:11; 13:6; 33:1-3; 47:6; 59:16-17; 63:7)

B. Where do we encounter music on a typical day?
Where do we not? It surrounds us all day long.

The average teenager listens to 2.5 hours of music a day.

C. Psalm 149 – A Manual For Worship

1. According to this, where are we to worship?
Corporately ‘in the assembly of the saints’, and privately at home ‘on my bed’.

2. And how are we to worship?

With singing, new songs, gladness, with dancing (and full use of my body – clapping, hand-raising, bowing, etc.); with every variety of music and instrumentation.

3. According to this, why are we to worship?

Because He’s our Maker. And our King. Because He takes delight in us. Because He crowns us with salvation.

III. When We Worship, It Becomes A Weapon Which Empowers Us For Purity

A. While these words may seem OTT, what stories would the ancient Jew have remembered from Scripture?
Stories like the Israelites after God had saved them from the Egyptians in Ex.15, and King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20.

B. Do we have any enemies that want to attack us today?
Are enemies are far worse and bent on our destruction. Eph.6 reminds us that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

C. What actually is going on whenever we gather in Jesus’ name to worship the Living God?

When we worship, really worship, angels are unleashed to act in power and demons are bound up with fetters of iron, like the psalm says. Sin’s claws are pried loose from my heart. Doubt disappears. Temptation weakens. Faith awakens. My spiritual vision clears. Satan’s chokehold on me is loosened. I can breathe again. My resolve to do what is right is strengthened.

IV. How Do I Use This Weapon of Worship?

First: fill my life with heaven's music.

A. What are we not saying?

1. That we should only listen to Christian music.
2. That certain types of music are inherently evil.

B. What are we saying?

1. Have large amount of Christian music in your musical diet.
2. You need to pay attention to the rest of what you're listening to.

Music is powerful because it can slip past your rational self and pass straight through to your emotional self. From there, it shapes your mood which can then shape your will and behavior.

3. What would we say to someone who claims they don't listen to the words, they just like the music?

Music is like an ICBM – an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile, a nuclear bomb on a rocket. The bad part of the ICBM is the nuclear material. That's what will kill, and maim and destroy. The delivery system is the rocket. Music that's sung with a message of hate and lust and rebellion and suicide and death and murder is just like that ICBM. The delivery system to your ears and to your soul is the music – but the message is what will kill, maim and destroy your faith, your purity, your love for God. And if that message is evil, then get rid of it. Ephesians 4:11 – “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness”.

4. How do we determine what is good or bad for us?

Philippians 4:8. “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.”

Second: Learn how to worship. Suggestions:

Psalm 149 begins and ends with three words: Praise the Lord. Your day should begin and end with those same three words. Your very life should be bookended with these three words. “From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.” (Ps.113:3).

God is to be praised *for who he is*. So you say, “I praise you Lord that you are Almighty. I praise you Lord that you are holy. I praise you Lord that you are loving.” Do this and you're learning how to worship.

And then we must not forget to thank the Lord. God is to be praised for who he is. He is to be thanked for *what he has done*. “Lord, I thank you for sending your son.” “Lord, I thank you for your Word, and what a powerful weapon it is.” “I thank you for my family.” “Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with a *grateful heart*.”

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.” That's what the Bible tells us in Psalm 100:4, and that is how we learn how to worship.