

Hymnology Survey- Fall 2020

❖Why (and How) We Sing Hymns...Singing in the Scriptures

Job 38:7...4 *Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?*

Tell Me, if you have understanding,

5 Who set its measurements? Since you know.

Or who stretched the measuring line over it?

6 On what were its bases sunk?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

7 ***When the morning stars sang together***

And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Exodus 15:1...Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying: “I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted;

The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.

2 ***The Lord is my strength and song,***

And He has become my salvation;

This is my God, and ***I will praise Him;***

My father’s God, and ***I will exalt Him.***

Judges 5:1,3...Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying,

2 ***“For the leaders leading in Israel,***

For the people volunteering,

Bless the Lord!

3 ***Hear, you kings; listen, you dignitaries!***

I myself—to the Lord, I myself will sing,

I will sing praise to the Lord, the God of Israel!

1 Samuel 18:6...Now it happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with other musical instruments. 7 The women sang as they played, and said,

“Saul has slain his thousands,

And David his ten thousands.”

1 Kings 10:12...The king made from the almag trees supports for the house of the Lord and for the king’s house, and ***lyres and harps for the singers;*** such almag trees have not come in *again*, nor have they been seen to this day.

1 Chronicles 9:33...Now these are the singers, heads of fathers' households of the Levites, who lived in the chambers of the temple free of other duties; for they were engaged in their work day and night. 34 These were heads of fathers' households of the Levites according to their generations, chief men who lived in Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 15:16,19,27...Then David spoke to the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their relatives as the singers, with musical instruments, harps, lyres, and cymbals, playing to raise sounds of joy...19 So the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were appointed to sound aloud cymbals of bronze; 20 and Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with harps tuned to alamoth; 21 and Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azariah, to lead with lyres tuned to the sheminith. 22 Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was in charge of the singing; he gave instruction in singing because he was skillful...So it was David, with the elders of Israel and the captains of thousands, who went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the house of Obed-edom with joy. 26 Because God was helping the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams. 27 **Now David was clothed with a robe of fine linen with all the Levites who were carrying the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the leader of the singing with the singers.** David also wore an ephod of linen. 28 **So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets, with loud-sounding cymbals, with harps, and lyres.**

1 Chronicles 16:9...Then on that day David first assigned Asaph and his relatives to give thanks to the Lord...Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name;
Make His deeds known among the peoples.
9 Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
Speak of all His wonders...Sing to the Lord, all the earth;
Proclaim good news of His salvation from day to day.

1 Chronicles 16:33...Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;
Bring an offering, and come before Him;
Worship the Lord in holy attire.
30 Tremble before Him, all the earth;
Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved.
31 Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth rejoice;
And let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns."

32 Let the sea roar, and everything it contains;
Let the field rejoice, and everything that is in it.

33 Then the trees of the forest will sing for joy in the presence of the Lord; For He is coming to judge the earth.

2 Chronicles 5:12,13...When the priests came out from the holy place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without regard to divisions), 12 and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and kinsmen, clothed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, standing east of the altar, and with them 120 priests blowing trumpets 13 in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the Lord, and when they raised their voices accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other musical instruments, and when they praised the Lord saying, “He indeed is good for His kindness is everlasting,” then the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not rise to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

Ezra 7:7...Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra went up to Jerusalem;...6 So this Ezra went up from Babylon, and he was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given; and the king granted him all he requested because the hand of the Lord his God was upon him. 7 Some of the sons of Israel and some of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants went up to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

Nehemiah 7:1,67...Now when the wall was rebuilt and I had installed the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites were appointed...66 The whole assembly together totaled 42,360, 67 besides their male slaves and their female slaves, of whom there were 7,337; and they had 245 male and female singers.

**Psalm 20:5...We will sing for joy over your victory,
And in the name of our God we will set up our banners.**

**Psalm 33:1...Sing for joy in the Lord, you righteous ones;
Praise is becoming to the upright.
2 Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;
Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings.
3 Sing to Him a new song;
Play skillfully with a shout of joy.**

Psalm 51:14...Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

15 Lord, open my lips,

So that my mouth may declare Your praise.

Psalm 59:16...But as for me, I will sing of Your strength; Yes, I will joyfully sing of Your faithfulness in the morning,

For You have been my refuge

And a place of refuge on the day of my distress.

17 My strength, I will sing praises to You;

For God is my refuge, the God who shows me favor.

Psalm 63:7...When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches,

7 For You have been my help,

And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.

8 My soul clings to You;

Your right hand takes hold of me.

Psalm 90:14...Satisfy us in the morning with Your graciousness, That we may sing for joy and rejoice all our days.

Psalm 92:1,4...It is good to give thanks to the Lord

And to sing praises to Your name, Most High;

2 To declare Your goodness in the morning

And Your faithfulness by night,

3 With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp,

With resounding music on the lyre.

4 For You, Lord, have made me joyful by what You have done,

I will sing for joy over the works of Your hands.

Psalm 67:4...May the nations be glad and sing for joy;

For You will judge the peoples with fairness

And guide the nations on the earth.

Psalm 81:1...Sing for joy to God our strength;

Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob.

2 Raise a song, strike the tambourine,

The sweet sounding lyre with the harp.

Psalm 84:2...How lovely are Your dwelling places,
Lord of armies!
**2 My soul longed and even yearned for the courtyards of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Psalm 95:1...**Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord,**
Let's shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.
**2 Let us come before His presence with a song of thanksgiving,
Let us shout joyfully to Him in songs with instruments.**

Psalm 96:12...May the heavens be joyful, and may the earth rejoice;
May the sea roar, and all it contains;
**12 May the field be jubilant, and all that is in it.
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy**

Psalm 98:4...**Sing a new song to the Lord,
For He has done wonderful things,
His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.**
...Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;
Be cheerful and sing for joy and sing praises.

Psalm 149:5...**Praise the Lord!
Sing a new song to the Lord,
And His praise in the congregation of the godly ones.**
2 Israel shall be joyful in his Maker;
The sons of Zion shall rejoice in their King.
**3 They shall praise His name with dancing;
They shall sing praises to Him with tambourine and lyre.**
4 For the Lord takes pleasure in His people;
He will glorify the lowly with salvation.
**5 The godly ones shall be jubilant in glory;
They shall sing for joy on their beds.**

שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים Shir Hashirim...The Song of Songs...The Song of Solomon

Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)...The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

Singing in the NT...

Matthew 26:30 (parallel in Mark 14:26)...And *after singing a hymn*, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Acts 16:25...*Now about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them*

1 Corinthians 14:15...I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the mind also; *I will sing with the spirit, but I will sing with the mind also.*

Ephesians 5:19...18 And do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your hearts to the Lord*; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to *our* God and Father

Colossians 3:16...16 *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.* 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

James 5:13...13 Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray. *Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.*

Revelation 5:9...And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And He came and took *the scroll* out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 8 When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And *they *sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation. 10 You have made them into a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth."*

Revelation 14:3...Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb *was* standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. 2 And ***I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps.*** 3 And they ****sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders;*** and no one was able to learn the song except the 144,000 who had been purchased from the earth.

Revelation 15:3...Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, *which are* the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.

2 And I saw *something* like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who were victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. 3 And ***they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!***

❖ **Focus on lyrics...we sing with the spirit and with the mind also...1 Corinthians 14:15**

Many hymns were written and sung to combat heresy (e.g. Arianism). Those advocating heresy were active in promulgating their views by hymns. In response, ***those upholding orthodox Christianity wrote and popularized hymns fostering truth, notably relating to the Person of Christ and the Trinity.***
Subjective and Objective Elements...

These are the hallmarks of good worship songs, whether they're hymns or choruses: biblical accuracy, God-centeredness, theological and/or historical progression, absence of first-person singular pronouns, and music that complements the tone of the lyrics.”

Mark Dever and Paul Alexander

“The great hymns of the church are on the way out. They are not gone entirely, but they are going and in their place have come trite jingles that have more in common with contemporary advertising ditties than the psalms. The problem here is not so much the style of the music, though trite words fit best with trite tunes and harmonies. Rather it is with the content of the songs. ***The old hymns expressed the theology of the Bible in profound and perceptive ways and with winsome memorable language. Today’s songs are focused on ourselves. They reflect our shallow or nonexistent theology and do almost nothing to elevate our thoughts about God.*** Worst of all are songs that merely repeat a trite idea, word, or phrase over and over again. Songs like this are not worship, though they may give the church-goer a religious feeling. They are mantras, which belong more in a gathering of New Agers than among the worshiping people of God.”

James Montgomery Boice

❖ Approach from a historical perspective...

One noted commentator provocatively, asked: "***What have you lost when you have lost the sound of you ancestors’ souls singing?***" Well, ***when we lose the great melodies and harmonies of the great hymn music of the church, we lose the sound of our ancestors’ souls singing.***

Hymns in Church History

“Throughout church history great periods of spiritual fervour and revival have always been accompanied by a renewed interest in congregational singing.” -- Professor Kenneth W. Osbeck

Historical Observations...

Professor Donald Hustad who was formerly Director of the Sacred Music Department at the Moody Bible Institute wrote the following: "The early worship music of the Christian church was completely congregational, so far as we can tell. However, following the spread of Christianity throughout the western world, the increasing power and sophistication of the church was accompanied by the development of trained choirs and music leaders. Church history records that about the fifth century congregational singing was largely eliminated in Christian worship, and the music was given to choirs"

(Jubilate!, pg. 46, referenced in Singing and New Testament Worship, by Dave Miller, pg. 3).

The Edict of Milan by Emperor Constantine in AD 313 marked a transition from a period of sustained and intense persecution of the Church to an environment conducive to freedom in public expression. Writing and singing of hymns, as well as doctrinal study, was facilitated by a decidedly more friendly setting.

Congregational singing was widespread in the Eastern Church (Syria, Palestine, Egypt). ***But a tragic period in the life of the Western Church (Byzantine/Roman) was introduced with the Council of Laodicea (363 AD), which forbade all congregational singing. Singing was then relegated to the clerical/"professional" segment of the Church (monastics in large part).***

“Canon 15. No others shall sing in the Church, save only the canonical singers, who go up into the ambo and sing from a book.” (Note- Ambo, in the Christian liturgy, a raised stand formerly used for reading the Gospel or the Epistle, first used in early basilicas. Originally, the ambo took the form of a portable lectern. By the 6th century it had evolved into a stationary church furnishing, which reflected the development and codification of the Christian liturgy.)

- ***Congregational singing was restored during the Reformation.***

By re-introducing public worship, the reformers displaced virtually overnight a thousand years of high church ritual. The Reformation fathers condemned the Gregorian Chant for some very telling reasons, revealing along the way their own evolving concepts of music. They objected to the distractions of elaborate vocal and instrumental music, the dangers of overly theatrical performances, the unwarranted expense of elaborate ceremonies and enormous pipe organs and the uselessness of text unintelligible to the common man. Contrasting with the high church's entrenched musical traditions was the simple and pragmatic approach of men like Martin Luther. Luther's stated goal was the restoration of true worship. He understood the tremendous benefit resulting from hearing the Word of God and then uniting as a congregation to offer thanksgiving in song. This stress on congregational participation in worship became a lynchpin of the Reformation.

Congregational singing had been halted since the close of the fourth century, when the church leaders decreed: “If laymen are not to interpret the Scriptures for themselves, so they are not to sing the songs of the church”. Martin Luther declared, “Let God speak directly to His people through the Scriptures, and let His people respond with grateful songs of praise”.

Interestingly, the vehicle God used to fan these Reformation teachings was a hymn by Martin Luther, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”, based on Psalm 46. Federic Henry Hedge translated it into English. This hymn is Luther’s great commentary on Psalm 46.

Luther’s enemies often lamented that “the German people were singing themselves into Luther’s doctrines, and that his hymns destroyed more souls than all of his writings and sermons”. From that time to the present, congregational singing has been one of the most important activities in evangelical church worship...Although Martin Luther was most noted as a theologian and not a musician, he is credited with writing 36 hymns and with composing the music for many of his own texts. He was also known for his fine tenor voice, as well as his mastery of the flute and the lute. Luther had a high regard for the ministry of music, for he wrote: “There is a root-like unity of music and theology. Music is wrapped and locked in theology. I would allow no man to preach or teach God’s people who did not realize the power and use of sacred music.”

Many church historians today state that more converts were won to faith in Christ through Luther’s encouragement of congregation singing than were influenced by his strong preaching and teaching.

The reformation made great changes. Martin Luther capitalized on German interest in singing. Holding that music ranked next to theology, he exalted the role of congregational singing as well as the use of the choirs. He wrote hymns which taught doctrine, and would rehearse new hymns during the week with the congregation. Not only did he write his hymns in the language of the people, but he adapted popular tunes sung in the beer gardens, thus setting all Germany singing Gospel truth in the garb of secular songs.

John Calvin permitted only psalms as suitable texts for congregational singing. The influence of the psalter became a part of the Reformation in its sweep across Europe and England. The sole musical leadership was the “precentor,” who announced the psalm, set the pitch, then “lined it out” phrase by phrase for the congregation to repeat.

<https://sharonbpc.wordpress.com/2011/10/16/reformation-and-restoration-of-congregational-singing/> Sharon Bible Presbyterian Church

Some Interesting Historical Observations...

Oldest hymn for which the author is known... “Shepherd of Tender Youth” – Clement of Alexandria (200AD) Translated from Greek to English by Henry Dexter (1846)

First hymn in English written for public worship... “Behold the Glories of the Lamb” – Isaac Watts (1688)

Youngest hymnist... John Milton wrote “Let Us With a Gladsome Mind” at age 15 (1623)

❖ **Resources for reference and further reading...**

John Piper bios @ www.desiringGod.org

- ▶ Luther 1483-1546
- ▶ Calvin 1509-1564
- ▶ Bunyan 1628-1688
- ▶ Newton 1725-1807
- ▶ Cowper 1731- 1800

Rev. Terry Johnson’s Notes on Hymnology

❖ ***General Flow of Historical Discussion for the class...***

▶ ***Patristic and Medieval***

▶ ***Reformation and Second Reformation***

▶ ***18th Century***

❖ ***Evangelical Hymns of the 18th Century***

- Watts
- Wesley
- Doddridge
- Toplady
- Newton
- Cowper

❖ ***Other 18th Century Hymns***

▶ ***19th Century***

❖ ***Early 19th Century***

- Montgomery
- Heber
- Kelly
- Bonar
- Havergal

❖ **High Church Movement and Revival of Ancient & Medieval Hymns**

↳ **20th Century**

❖ *Timothy Dudley-Smith*

❖ *Ed Clowney*

❖ *James Montgomery Boice*

❖ *Contemporary hymns- Gettys, Sovereign Grace, Indelible Grace/RUF etc*

❖ **Distant Voices- Ambrose etc...Patristic and Medieval**

Note- Hymn numbers are linked to The Trinity Hymnal Revised Edition (1990)

Gloria Patri (736) 2nd Century...music dates from 1970s

Gloria in Excelsis (102) 4th Century

Te Deum 4th Century “**Holy God, We Praise Your Name**” (103)...
music from 1700s

Ambrose of Milan 340-397 “**O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright**” (58) ...music from 1600s

Prudentius 348-413 “**Of The Father’s Love Begotten**” (162)

Liturgy of St. James 5th Century “**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent**” (193)

Fortunatus 530-609 “**Welcome Happy Morning**” (268,269)

Ancient Irish Hymn 8th Century “**Be Thou My Vision**” (642)

Bernard of Clairvaux 1091-1153 “**O Sacred Head Now Wounded**” and “**Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts**” (247,646)

Latin Hymn 11th Century “**Jesus the Very Thought of Thee**” (645)

Latin Antiphons 12th Century “**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**” (194)

Francis of Assisi ca 1225 “**All Creatures of our God and King**”(115)

Jesus the Very Thought of Thee

Jesus, the very thought of thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see,
And in thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
Nor can the mem'ry find,
A sweeter sound than thy blest Name,
O Saviour of mankind.

O Hope of ev'ry contrite heart,
O Joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind thou art!
How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this
Nor tongue nor pen can show:
The love of Jesus, what it is
None but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only Joy be thou,
As thou our Prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our Glory now,
And through eternity.

Hymnologist Robert Cottrill on this hymn...

This hymn, translated from Latin by Edward Caswell, is traditionally attributed to Bernard, a brilliant preacher and theologian of the twelfth century...

The four or five stanzas used for the hymn begin a long Latin poem of forty-eight stanzas called *Jesu Dulcis Memoria* ("Sweet Memory of Jesus"). The Cyber Hymnal gives us fifteen stanzas of the poem. *O Jesus, King Most Wonderful* (also translated by Edward Caswell) and *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts* (translated by Ray Palmer) are also drawn from the Latin poem.

Historian Philip Schaff called the present hymn "the sweetest and most evangelical hymn of the Middle Ages." It is said the Latin original was sung by knights guarding the holy sepulchre in Jerusalem. John Dykes' tune, *St. Agnes*, was written for the English version of the song. Agnes when a girl of thirteen, was martyred in Rome for her faith in Christ, in A.D. 304.

Let's assume that Bernard is indeed the author of this hymn, or could be. It is in keeping with his strong focus on the person of Christ. In an age when many were singing and praying to angels and dead saints, this was unusual. It led Martin Luther to proclaim him, four centuries later, the greatest monk who ever lived.

Bernard said:

If thou writest, nothing therein has savour to me unless I read Jesus in it.
If thou discoursest, nothing therein is agreeable to me unless in it also
Jesus resounds. Jesus is honey to the mouth, melody to the ear, a song of
jubilee in the heart.

These sentiments, and the first and second stanzas of the hymn, are reminiscent of John Newton's beautiful *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*. A person's name represents him, and thus all that he is. The word is also used of a person's reputation. When the Bible says of the Lord "how excellent is Your name in all the earth" (Ps. 8:9), we know it speaks of the Person of God, His nature and character, and of how He is worshiped the world over.

The name of Jesus, when it represents Christ, is precious to us because of His saving work on the cross. That is why He is called "Jesus" (Matt. 1:21). "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). "This is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment" (I Jn. 3:23).

No wonder Paul declares to the Corinthian church, "I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (I Cor. 2:2). In the coming kingdom, "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10-11).

<https://wordwisehymns.com>

John Wesley's Directions on Hymn Singing...

That this part of Divine Worship may be the more acceptable to God, as well as the more profitable to yourself and others, be careful to observe the following directions.

I. Learn these Tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.

II. Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

III. Sing All. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.

IV. Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

V. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.

VI. Sing in Time: whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can. And take care you sing not too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from among us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.

VII. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your Heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of here, and reward when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.