

# Church Music and Worship

Much has been said about Worship. To previous reports on Worship and Church Music which have been read before this Convention and printed in the minutes of the Southern Baptist Convention there need be no additional word from the Committee. However, the following from Dwight Bradley, and published by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in their program entitled, "Worship and Witness," is so fine we have asked Brother Huggins, General Secretary, for permission to pass it on to you.

## WHAT IS WORSHIP?

It is a soul searching for its counterpart.  
 It is a thirsty land crying out for rain.  
 It is a candle in the act of being kindled.  
 It is a drop in quest of the ocean.  
 It is a man listening through the tornado for the Still Small Voice.  
 It is the voice in the night calling for help.  
 It is a sheep lost in the wilderness pleading for rescue by the Good Shepherd.  
 It is the same sheep nestling in the arms of the Rescuer.  
 It is the Prodigal Son running to his Father.  
 It is a soul standing in awe before the mystery of the Universe.  
 It is a hungry heart seeking for love.  
 It is Time flowing into Eternity.  
 It is my little self engulfed in the Universal Self.  
 It is a man climbing the altar stairs to God.  
 Intelligent worship is the most remarkable achievement of which a human being is capable.  
 Ignorant Worship is better than intelligent non-worship.  
 Worship lifts men to their next level of experience and justifies their existence as men.  
 A human being must be graded according to his capacity for Worship.  
 Worship is Man expressing his entire personality.  
 He who neglects Worship, neglects that which separates man from the birds, the animals, the insects, and the fishes.  
 To neglect Worship is to accept a low rating as a man.  
 To neglect Worship is to fail in life's highest function.  
 The neglect of Worship is physical suicide.  
 The unworshipful man is an anthropoid equipped with a highly developed brain.  
 He may be a paragon of morality, but so are bees and ants.  
 He may be keenly intelligent, but so are wolves and foxes.  
 He may provide for his family, but so do hyenas and orangutans.  
 He may be successful in affairs, but so are beavers and muskrats.  
 He may be artistic, but so are birds and butterflies.

## WORSHIP AND THE CHURCH

The primary function of a Church is to supply an incentive to Worship, and to furnish an atmosphere for Worship.

If one cannot worship in the Church, the Church may be at fault, or the man may be at fault.

If the Church is at fault it will eventually perish, unless it remedies the condition.

If the man is at fault, he will dry up and become a spiritual mummy, unless he changes himself.

We urge, as an aid to worship, that our ministers give special emphasis on Scripture reading and music appreciation.

## CHURCH MUSIC

We have always been and still are, of the opinion that many of our problems in regard to worship will be solved when we have better Church Music,

and certainly, we can't have better Church Music until we train our people along better Church Music lines.

We note with satisfaction the growing tendency on the part of States, Associations, and Churches to do something definite about Church Music. Arkansas, perhaps, is leading out in this direction in State work. Louisiana held a State-Wide Church Music Conference this past April 22. We are sure there are others we do not know about.

We reaffirm our belief in the graded choirs, viz., Juniors, Intermediates, Young People and Adults. The training of these younger groups how to sing and what to sing will determine largely the Music of the Church of tomorrow.

We urge our Baptist Colleges, Universities and Seminaries to place in their curriculum a Department of Church Music and that certain, definite, courses be required of all ministerial students.

Our small towns and rural churches are at the mercy of a cheap, non-worshipful, type of music promoted principally, by those who care nothing for the welfare of the Church and people, just so they are able to gain something in a material way. The conditions cannot be remedied, we feel, unless we as a denomination go into these places (and the pastors in these places are urging us to do so), and by teaching and demonstration help the people to have what they need. We did that very thing in Sunday school and Training Union and the results speak for themselves. Music is of such importance and is used so much in every service that it demands promotion not as a side-line but as a major.

We realize that much responsibility for Church Music Training lies within each State, yet there is a Southwide work to be done by our denomination. We urge States to consider a Church Music set-up equal in scope, etc., to the other departments of Church activity fostered by our States.

We commend the books: "Let Us Sing," by McKinney and Graves, and "Church Music," and "Music and the Scriptures," by Reynolds, and a new book soon to come off press, "Practical Singing Lessons," by McKinney.

We feel that Southern Baptists are justified in asking that a considerable amount of the profits received from the sale of song books and other music be expended in a worthy Church Music Educational Program. Therefore, realizing the dire need of, and the Macedonian call for, a better Church Music Program for Southern Baptists, we recommend that the Sunday School Board be instructed to increase the personnel of the Department of Church Music sufficiently to prepare and set going a constructive, educational program of Church Music among Southern Baptists.

Signed:

Committee:

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