

InTune

Church Music News and Reviews

www.religiousaffectionsministries.org

July, 2009

The Church Assembles For Worship, Part 2

Ryan Martin

Last issue I offered an initial argument that believers gather for worship. In part 1 (January, 2009), I discussed the significance of the phrase, “house of God” as applied to the church in the New Testament, that it points to assembled believers as the place of God’s special presence, the “new temple/tabernacle” for those in Christ Jesus. I argued that this phrase, “house of God,” used of the church in passages such as 1 Timothy 3:15 and Hebrews 10:19-24, should be taken to mean that the church is the new temple/tabernacle in this particular economy of God’s work in human history.

In this installment, I will argue along similar lines. As I said, the application of the phrase “house of God” to the church means that the church is the “new temple,” the place for public worship. I believe this becomes even more explicit in the clear New Testament teaching that gathered believers are together a “new temple” in this era of God’s work.

This is most clearly taught in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

The teaching that the assembled church is the temple of God should not be confused with the teaching in 1 Cor 6:19 that our individual bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. This is an important separate teaching with the implication that we should live holy lives lest we make the Holy Spirit a partaker of sin. The teaching that the church also is the “new temple” has the implications that the church must be holy and that God dwells in the midst of assembled believers. Because the Spirit of God dwells in the midst of assembled believers, that group of assembled believers is holy. The church is owned by God, completely devoted to him and his worship. Flowing from the fact

that God dwells in the new temple—the church—comes the starting application: God’s church is holy, and those who hurt God’s church, God will hurt. The very principle of holiness speaks of the church being devoted to the worship of God. The church is owned by God and is a holy place devoted to him. If God dwells in us, we are God’s. And what God desires, more than anything else, is our worship. Above all this is the clear teaching here that we are God’s temple. The assembly of believers is the new place for public worship in the church era. We are a temple and should be devoted to the public worship of the Triune God when we gather together.

The church as new temple is not taught only in 1 Corinthians 3. In 2 Corinthians 6:16b, Paul says,

“For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, ‘I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.’”

The context in 2 Corinthians 6 is again one of holiness. Believers should not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers because God’s temple is holy, and such communion with the unrighteous would defile God’s temple. Christ has no concord with Belial. The reason we should not be connected with unbelievers is that the church is God’s temple, the holy place of his special presence. Therefore we should be separate from

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those who deny God. We are wholly sanctified to God, and dedicated to him and him alone. He is our father; we are his children. The church is the place of public worship because it is God's temple—wholly God's and holy to God.

The final passage I want to point to that teaches that the church is God's temple is one I looked at last time, Eph 2:19-22.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

I love this passage because it combines the ideas of church as household of God, not only as Graeco-Roman household, but as temple. We who were “strangers and aliens” are now in God's house, but we the church are also the “house of God,” the temple. Paul mixes in the metaphor of the church as a physical building (conjured by the references to “household” and “temple”) there too. But here it is reiterated that we collectively are the place of God's dwelling by the Spirit. We are the new temple, the place for public worship in the Christian era. No more is there any need to go to the old temple. Christ's church—the assembly of believers—is the place appointed for all humankind's public worship of the Holy One of Israel, the Triune God.

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TuneUp

Tips For Music Directors: Finding Good Church Music

Sifting through piles of music to find those things that will work for your groups can be a daunting task, but sometimes that's the only way to find good music! Here are some suggestions of ways that you can more easily find music that you can use:

1. *Visit music distribution web sites.* There are several good music distributors that carry lots of good music. Probably the most popular company is J. W. Pepper (www.jwpepper.com). You can search for good music very easily on such a site.

2. *Join choral clubs.* Most music publishers have choral

clubs that you can join. Once you pay a small fee, the publisher will send you new music as it is released. This is a good way to narrow the list of what you might choose. Visit the websites or call music publishers whose music you regularly use to see if they have such a club.

3. *Join ChurchMusicFiles.com.* ChurchMusicFiles.com indexes hundreds of church music selections (choral, instrumental, vocal, keyboard, and more) so that you have an even more narrowed list of what might work for your church. The site is decidedly conservative and has a robust search feature so that you can find exactly what you need. It is a membership site, but you can choose what your fee will be (even \$0). This site provides a helpful tool for taking much of the work out of choosing good music for your search.

4. *Subscribe to InTune!*

CD Recommendation

With Grateful Praise



In this string quartet recording featuring Ryan and Bevan Elliott, Joanna Lebo, and Sharon Gerber, you will enjoy beautiful arrangements of both meditative and spirited pieces to fill your heart with praise to the Lord. Songs include, *Come, Thou Fount; Be Thou My Vision; My Shepherd Will Supply My Need; For the Beauty of the Earth; What Wondrous Love Is This?; Come, Christians, Join to Sing; Rejoice, the Lord is King;* and more!

NewTunes

Church Music Recommendations

For more church music recommendations, visit www.churchmusicfiles.com.

Vocal Solo

Favorite Hymns
Vocal solo collection | Hal Leonard

Choral

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name | H. Hopson
SATB | Hope

All Praise to You, Our God and King | M. Larkin
SATB | Morningstar

Amazing Grace | J. Althouse
SATB, SAB, SSAA, or TTBB | Alfred

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light | Bach/arr. Parker
SATB | Schirmer

Come, We That Love the Lord | D. Gustafson
SATB | SoundForth (download via SacredAudio.com)

God of Grace and God of Glory | M. Costello
Children's choir or 2-part mixed | MorningStar

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name | K. Scott
SATB | Concordia

Jesus, Priceless Treasure | T. Beck
SATB | MorningStar

The King of Love My Shepherd Is | D. Forrest
SATB | Beckenhorst

Lift High the Cross | H. Hopson
SATB | Hope

Lo! He Comes With Clouds Dscending | J. Rutter
SATB, congregation Hinshaw

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling | Mark Hayes
SATB | Beckenhorst

Make a Joyful Noise | D. Ledgerwood
SATB | download via SacredAudio.com

My Eternal King | J. Marshall
SATB, TTBB | Carl Fischer

Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant | P. Weber
SATB divisi, a capella | MorningStar

O For a Thousand Tongues | P. Davis
SATB | download via SacredAudio.com

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You | M. Costello
SATB, congregation | MorningStar

O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus | P. Young
SATB | Lorenz

Open Thou Mine Eyes | J. Rutter
SATB a capella | Hinshaw

ToolBox

Helpful Resources For Church Musicians



Church Music Files

Church Music Recommendations

ChurchMusicFiles.com is your personal assistant for finding and selecting conservative church music!

Don't have the time or patience to sift through all of the choral and instrumental music that is published for your church? No worries. ChurchMusicFiles.com can help!

ChurchMusicFiles.com takes most of the work out of sifting through piles of music to find those that fit a conservative church. We index hundreds of music selections and make them available for you to browse.

ChurchMusicFiles.com is a membership website, but you get to choose your membership fee (even \$0)!

ChurchMusicFiles.com is decidedly conservative in music philosophy, so you will find only the best, conservative music indexed there. *Visit today!*

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Get help with music ministry issues at the Camp Joy Music Ministry Retreat

January 21-23, 2010

Whether you're a pastor, full-time music director, or lay church musician, the 3rd Annual Camp Joy Music Ministry Retreat will be well-worth your time! The Music Ministry Retreat is designed to be a time of refreshment, encouragement, and equipping for pastors, church music directors, and laymen involved in the church music ministry.



Sessions for: Church Music Director, Accompanists, Lay Church Musicians, Pastors, and Students

- Beginning/Advanced Choral Conducting
- How To Be A Good Choir Member
- Church Music Administration
- Congregational Song Leading
- Beginning/Advanced Accompaniment
- Teaching Music to Children
- The Layperson's Guide to a Worship Service
- How to Find Good Music to Play in Church
- Christian Music Philosophy
- There will be something for everyone!



RELIGIOUS AFFECTIONS

— M I N I S T R I E S —

www.religiousaffections.org

Visit our website for more, valuable resources for your church music ministry including articles, reviews, service planning help, hymns, choral and instrumental music, and much more.

Please contact us if we can be of any service to you including scheduling a meeting, choir clinic, conference, or seminar.

This is a perfect retreat for a church choir to attend together!

Children are Welcome! You are welcome to bring your children to this retreat. We will be providing special services, activities, and music classes.

This year, we are offering two registration options:
OPTION 1: Specifically designed to meet the needs of pastors and music directors. **Thursday evening - Saturday afternoon.**

OPTION 2: Specifically designed to meet the needs of lay musicians, choir members, church accompanists, and students. **Friday evening - Saturday afternoon.**

**Bring 5 or more people from your church and receive \$10 off each person!*

Simply choose which option best fits your needs and your schedule!

Thursday evening through Friday afternoon will be focused primarily on music philosophy, service organization and leading, choral conducting, and pastoral issues.

Friday evening through Saturday afternoon will be focused primarily on practical ministry issues, choral workshops, accompanist workshops, and more.

SPEAKERS: We have an exciting line-up of speakers this year: Chuck Phelps, Dean Kurtz, David Rasbach, Scott Aniol, and Steve Allen.

Deadlines: We must have a good number registered for this retreat by September 1, 2009! Please register early,

and promote this retreat to your choir and other church musicians.

Remember, all churches bringing 10 or more people receive \$10 off each registration!

Visit <http://campjoy.org/musicConference.php> for more details or to register!

Religious Affections Ministries
 Scott Aniol, Executive Director

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