



## A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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### “MAKING MELODY WITH YOUR HEART...”

The picture of the little boy seen below always warms my heart when I see it. It has been saved by me to remind me of what is found in Psalms 98:4, “*Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.*” The little guy is unabashed as he bursts forth in song. Is he worried about what others think? That would be a resounding no. There is a powerful lesson to be found in the picture, that being sometimes we are more concerned about how we may sound to others, rather than truly singing from the heart our praises to God.



*name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*” How could one not burst out in singing praise to God as set forth by David in Psalms 98? Joining together with one another in jubilant song in reverence and homage to God while at the same time lifting up one another.

It feels good to sing and in all honesty there is more than enough evidence to show it is a positive spiritually, physically and emotionally. Research has shown that singing can enhance bonding, while releasing endorphins, serotonin and dopamine all of which improve mood and well-being. Do you think Paul and Silas were concerned over the tonality of their singing while in jail in Philippi? While in shackles,

and around midnight they could be heard, “*praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*” (Acts 16:25) The result of what they had done was that the jailer inquired “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*” (v. 30, see also vs 31-33)

How could one not want to sing out in praise? Think of all the marvelous things God has done in your life. Praise be to God! “*O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.*” (Psalms 95:1-2) “*Sing to the Lord, for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth.*” (Isaiah 12:5)

It is well know fact that when I sing I sound like a moose call on dark, dreary, foggy day. Yet nevertheless I raise my voice and sing, knowing that God is concerned about what fills my heart. Oh, I try and do my best in singing, but I am more concerned with singing from the heart. Which is what we all must do. (wbe)

Singing in an ostentatious manner is clearly not what is being suggested, rather, singing with adoration and praise devoid of self-consciousness. Note what Paul penned to the Corinthians as he was striving to correct some issues that had cropped up during their worship. “*But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.*” (1Corinthians 14:40) Singing is done not only to express joy and gratitude to God, but also a joining together with those of like precious faith as a reflection of community. “*I will proclaim Thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will sing Thy praise.*” (Hebrews 2:12)

“*Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.*” (Ephesians 5:19-20) Now couple that passage with what is found in Colossians 3:16-17. “*Let the word of Christ richly dwell with you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the*

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