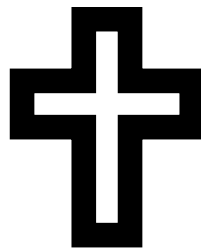


Twelve Lessons
on
The Music Ministry

by
Jeremy Simpson, Th.D.



Macedonia Baptist College
9722 Hwy 601
Midland, NC 28107
(704) 784-4200

\$6.00

CONTENTS

1. THE MUSIC MINISTRY3

2. MUSIC THEORY4

3. THE FINISHED PRODUCT6

4. SONG LEADING – PART ONE8

5. SONG LEADING – PART TWO10

6. SONG LEADING – PART THREE12

7. SONG LEADING – PART FOUR14

8.SONG LEADING “DO’S” – PART ONE16

9. SONG LEADING “DO’S” – PART TWO18

10. SONG LEADING “DON’TS” – PART ONE20

11.THE STORIES BEHIND OUR HYMNS – PART ONE22

12. THE STORIES BEHIND OUR HYMNS – PART TWO24

**No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without
written permission from Macedonia Baptist College and Xaris, Inc.**

The logo for Xaris, featuring the word "XARIS" in a stylized, lowercase font with a decorative flourish above the letters.

THE MUSIC MINISTRY -- LESSON ONE

Introduction: The purpose for this study in music is to show forth a view of music in the history of the Church and also to give some helpful ideas that I am sure will enable us to be used to our full potential in what I believe to be a very important ministry of the Church.

Let me say from the start that I am not trying to teach you how to be absolutely perfect in your music ministry. I believe emphatically that when we endeavor to work for God we ought to do our very best. I believe that intelligence is an important quality that every child of God should strive to obtain, however I also believe that freedom is not ignorance. I believe music that is stiff and starchy often fails to touch the common heart.

I want to be able to sing as the Holy Spirit leads me. Some musicians think it the unpardonable sin to sing or play an instrument without a piece of music in front of you, and I feel that this is wrong. Each individual should be free to express their emotions with the song. However, one also should try to carry the tune so they do not stray too far from the original melody of the song. I'm simply trying to say I like to have freedom to sing with feeling.

I found this to be true. If my preaching does not bless me it will not bless my people. If my preaching does not help me it will not help my people. It is the same with singing. If you do not enjoy singing, people will not enjoy listening. I want to give you four things about the Music Ministry.

I. THE PART THAT MUSIC PLAYS IN THE CHURCH

A. Apart from the Preaching, I believe that music is the **second most important aspect** in a church service.

1. The music of a church can make or break a service. I have seen the entire spirit in a service ruined because a song leader was not in "tune" with what God wanted.
2. Preacher Milford Biddle said, "You can't build a church on singing but you can't build much of one without it."

B. It is not a substitute for preaching! Nothing can take the place of preaching.

1. **If the preaching of the Word of God does not get the job done, the job is beyond hope anyway!**
2. I Cor. 1:21-- "*it pleased God by the foolishness of PREACHING to save them that believe.*"
3. Music is not to be used as entertainment.

C. Music can be the spark that sets the service on fire.

D. It simply prepares the hearts of the people for the word of God.

II. THE PURPOSE OF MUSIC

A. Music's supreme purpose should be one thing and one thing only, **TO GLORIFY GOD!**

B. Every practice that we undertake should be launched with the goal of God receiving the glory of the outcome.

1. Everything that we start out to do should glorify God.
2. I Cor. 10:31-- "*...do all to the glory of God.*"

III. THE POWER IN MUSIC

A. It is not you stirring hearts to worship! It is the Holy Ghost!

1. Too many times in our Christian lives we try to take it upon ourselves to do the blessing, when all the while the Holy Ghost is standing waiting to infiltrate our lives to the point that the Glory of God can shine through us.
2. This not only applies to singers but to anyone serving in any capacity. We need to realize that "*except the Lord build a house, they labour in vain that build it.*"--Psalm 127:1

B. I'm thoroughly convinced that we are living in a powerless church age. We have been without power for so long that I believe we don't even miss it.

1. We have found ways to cover it over.
2. We have added a couple more poems to our message and a little more drama to our illustrations and therefore tried to substitute the power of God.
3. The problem lies in that our power is natural
4. Our natural power can stir emotions and stir up feelings, but it takes a supernatural power from Almighty God to make supernatural changes.

C. The same is true with our singing. You may have the talent. You may practice. You may have every note just right, But if you don't have a touch from God on your singing, it will not get the job done.

1. I wonder what would happen if we would pray as much as we practice.

2. Music does not have to be professional to be powerful.

3. Music must be prayerful if it is to be powerful.

D. Personally, I would rather hear an old country boy sing with the touch of almighty God all over him, than to

hear the most splendid vocalist in all the world sing as though he doesn't even know who God is.

E. A lot of what we see today is nothing but entertainment instead of what I believe it ought to be, and that is Worship.

IV. THE PERSONS IN MUSIC

A. God uses individuals.

1. God is interested in what **YOU** can do. He is not interested in what you can do like somebody else.
2. As preachers we sometimes try to be like the most popular preacher around instead of being the preacher that God wants us to be. The same is true in singers and musicians. You don't have to sing like the "Pros", who I believe in their pride and pretense make God nauseated.

B. You need to be what God wants you to be.

C. God is not as interested in how **elegant** your singing is as much as He is interested in how **effective** it is.