

“The Music in Me”
By Bob Heitzler
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I posted a question on Facebook, "What does music do for you?" and these are some of the answers I got:

Jean—“Bob, music is wonderful motivation for everything :)”

Kayla—“Music expresses how I’m feeling when I’ve ran out of words to say.”

Marita—“Awesome! Music helps me feel motivated when I have to do house work lifts me up when am down.”

Rebecca (a cousin in Virginia)—“I like it to enhance relaxation. The nature sounds music with birds and water sounds really puts me in a mellow place.”

Vincent—“Spiritual music helps me get my thoughts going the right way when my head is stuck too far in the world.”

Bill—“Music is the language of emotion. It operates primarily on a subconscious level; it can bless or curse, motivate or depress. Music combined with lyrics that are consciously understood can therefore build up or tear down, and is useful for promoting a message or spreading information.”

Jesse—“When I need encouragement I cling to spiritual songs that stir the soul. When I need to remind myself of my commitment to my wife I play our wedding song “Grow old along with me”. Mary Carpenter version. When I need to relax and not think about lyrics, the classicals. I like Christmas songs that bring the seasons cheer. Sometimes I just turn off the music and make a sweet melody from within, the kind that gives me special time with my God where peace flows like a river.”

Music is the number one language of the world! It has been used throughout the history of mankind, anything from celebrations for victories, to bowing down to strange gods, to calm the soul, to build up suspense and it goes on and on! Music is part of our lives every day!

Here are a few examples.....

1. Music was use to bring forth a victory over the enemy. – when the walls of Jericho came down from trumpets and a great shout from God’s people –

Joshua 6:1-5 ... a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet...

What do you suppose the people of Jericho thought of all that marching around the city that the Israelites did? On the third day, they probably said, “They’re going around again.” On the sixth day, they probably said, “They’re going around again.” On the seventh day, they probably said, “They’re going around again.” But they marched around the city seven times on the seventh day, and then the trumpets sounded—that’s music—and then the people shouted and praised God, and the walls laid down flat. They took the enemy. When we seek God in the quiet times, prayer times – God rewards openly. When there are wall around us – praising God will take the walls down.

2. Music was used for worship strange gods

Daniel 3:8-18 ...every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image...

This tells me that some music is ungodly. We need to be careful to what we listen to and worship to, and also be ready to take a stand against it. This also teaches us that people are using their God given talents to worship the wrong gods.

3. Music was used to calm the soul

1 Samuel 16:17-23 ... when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed...

Parrish talked last week about the evil spirits that come to us, and tell us we're too old, or we're too young, or we're too something. God used David, and his song, to drive the evil spirit away. People know who to turn to in the time of need. When Satan is all around us..... singing the praises of God will chase Satan away

4. Music was used to Bring Great News!! Shepherds in the field

Luke 2:8-20 ...And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God...

Being a shepherd was an undesirable job, most would say. What would you think if you saw a sky full of angels? We might think we are doing undesirable jobs BUT we are important to God. We are all called to serve Him!

Even today ---- Music is still used a lot and to tells Stories

These are some I grew up listening to:

Indians played music when they were at peace!! I'm part American Indian, and one of the things that I was taught growing up was that when you could hear the drums, that meant there was peace, but if the drumming stopped, that meant that the drummer was out looking for someone...

The Star Spangled Banner—written in 1814, inspired by the Battle of Fort McHenry in the war of 1812. The battle lasted most of the night, but when the sun came up the next morning, the American Flag was still flying over the fort, signifying that the British had not won the battle.

“The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald” by Gordon Lightfoot - November 10, 1975 the bulk freighter Edmund Fitzgerald sank in Lake Superior with all hands; 29 men. They still have services for those men.

“Hurricane” by Bob Dylan - Rubin "Hurricane" Carter fought professionally as a middleweight boxer from 1961 to 1966. In 1966, he was arrested for a triple homicide in the Lafayette Bar and Grill in Paterson, New Jersey. Bob Dylan went and met him in the prison, and wrote a song about it. Hurricane Carter got another trial, and was found guilty again. He was released in 1985; they finally figured out he didn't do it.

Music is used in movies, to build up suspense; Monday Night Football opens with Faith Hill.

The US Calvary uses trumpets to convey a message to other soldiers; they would play different sounds to send messages. Even in the confusion of battle, the soldiers can hear what to do. They play trumpets for Reveille & Taps – Raising & lowering of US Flag – at Great Lakes Navy Base – all those who are serving in the Military, outside and hear the sound of the trumpet will stand and salute the US Flag.

Telephone Rings – You can use different ringtones to know who is calling. I was with somebody awhile back, and their phone started playing the theme for the Wicked Witch of the West from the Wizard of Oz; she didn't answer it, she said, “I don't want to talk to her; she's evil.”

Bottom line on Bottom Musical note is that Music Tells US a Message!!

These stories tell me that music ministers to us in many ways and I realize that there are many types of music out there today BUT there are 2 kinds of music!!! Positive & Negative; Good & Bad; Encouraging & Discouraging; Godly & Ungodly... Some people try to sing both types, but we know that Bitter and Sweet cannot come from the same fountain.

James 3:10-12... Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

How do we know which kind of music is playing? **Worldly Music sings about** Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, **Godly Music sings about** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

Galatians 5:19-26 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these...

They did a study recently about rap music, and how it affects young people. It gets them into crime, and makes them more violent. I just read the headline, I didn't get into the whole thing, but music affects us.

Closing Thoughts

You may be wondering, “Why do you have a radio sitting on the table?” That radio represents us; our lives as Christians broadcast a powerful message to the world that is all around us..... (Turning “on” the radio results in playing “Amazing Grace”). Our lives are broadcasting

this song every day. At the barber shop, at the gas station, at the coffee shop, everywhere we go, we broadcast that message. They look to us to see the hope that lies within us. They want that. They see you, and they say, "I can go to this person and ask for prayer." They see something in our lives that ministers to them.

This is my favorite gospel song; when I first got saved, it ministered to me. It calms me down when I'm upset; it calms me when I'm down; it calms me down when I've got walls around me. It calms me down when God has a plan for me, and all of the sudden, things start happening, and God starts answering prayers. "Amazing Grace" was written by a minister named John Newton, who had formally been a slave ship captain. This song was written over two hundred years ago, and it still has a powerful message today. Parrish talked last week about the spirit of being too old to do things. I'm not like an old radio that doesn't work anymore; I can still broadcast, I can still share. I can still live for God. You can become like a car that doesn't run anymore and it's been left out in the field, and now there are trees growing through it. I'm not going to be that car. I know we have a family here, and we have a mission to do. We really do. I know we've been hearing this over and over and over, but, God's got something for us.

I know there are other churches, but they don't have what we've got. If Parrish's not here, I'll call him. If Sonia's not here, I'll text her. If Kayla's not here, I'll say, "Where are you at?" We look out for each other. The music has a powerful message from our lives to the people around us. We have to be careful what we hear, what we listen to. We also have to be careful what we broadcast to people around us.

Amen. God bless you.

Ephesians 5:19-20

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs

