

The Wisdom of God in Congregational singing.

Heb 8:10 This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

How does God write his laws in our minds and hearts in this current covenant?

We have memory verses, but how many of you remember them? Do you constantly practice them to keep them ever fresh in your mind?

Do you write them over and over again so that you will remember?

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Compare the number of songs you can sing to the number of memory verses you can recite.

Songs that are sung by the church accomplish teaching in two ways.

1. We teach one another #401

2. We teach ourselves #387

No teaching device is more powerful than repetition. Repetition with a mnemonic aid carefully settles the lesson in our minds.

#408

(Mnemonic – assisting or intended to assist memory)

The mnemonic aid in this case is a tune, consisting of a melody and rhythm accompanying the words.

A melody without words has no meaning, although it may be enchanting, charming, exciting, irritating or boring.

But a melody brings back the words we have sung to teach us over and over again.

In congregational singing, we may not be entertained,
but we do teach others and ourselves.

I was once asked by a friend visiting our assemblies,
“Why must you always sing those mournful and
depressing songs at the end of your service?” #31

After being baptized, he realized the invitation song
posed a warning requiring a response to God which
he had been reluctant to give. After being baptized,
he gladly joined in teaching others. #463

The songs that we sing are to be songs that teach us the principles of being a Christian, whether invitation songs to encourage someone to respond to the invitation #772 or to go into all the world. #632

What do you miss when you're not in the assembly to sing?

You miss the opportunity to teach.

Mat 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What do you miss when you're not in
the assembly to sing?

You don't learn.

Tit 3:14 Our people must learn to
devote themselves to doing what is
good, in order to provide for urgent
needs and not live unproductive lives.

#1

If you find yourself alone and are singing “Count Your Blessings”, do not think that you will be discouraged.

God gave us songs for more than just
teaching!

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with
wine, for that is dissipation, but be
filled with the Spirit, (19) speaking to
one another in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing and making
melody with your heart to the Lord;

Drunkenness gives one a sense of
euphoria – of having no cares –
being able to forget the worries of
the world!

We are not to get drunk – we are to
sing!

Singing provides a sense of euphoria (happiness) #870, wipes away the troubles from our minds #235 and allows us to relax #561.

Singing stirs the soul – to action #585, to peace #530, to joy #376.

Have you thought about the debt
you owe to brethren who have
written scriptural songs for your
singing?

1Co 14:26 What then shall we say,
brothers and sisters? When you
come together, each of you has a
hymn, or a word of instruction, a
revelation, a tongue or an
interpretation. Everything must be
done so that the church may be
built up.

Was ever a gift like the Savior given?

No, not one! No, not one!

Will He refuse us a home in Heaven?

No, not one! No, not one!

Jud 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. (4) For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

1Co 14:15 So what shall I do? I will
pray with my spirit, but I will also
pray with my understanding; I will
sing with my spirit, but I will also
sing with my understanding.

Song leaders – look carefully at the words of the songs you lead.

Brethren – as we sing, sing with the spirit, but be sure to include understanding!

Pass Me Not #526

Pass me not, O gentle Savior,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Fanny Crosby, the song's author, was a believer in a working of the Lord being required to be saved – the calling of the elect. This song asks for selection by God to receive His mercy.

A beautiful hymn, it needs new words to make it
Scriptural!

1Ti 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. (16) But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

As we stand to teach in song,
posing the question to you – What
will you do with Jesus? #736