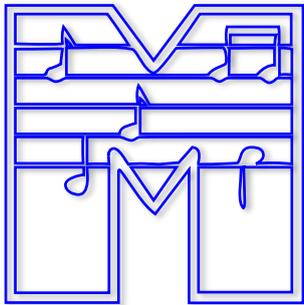
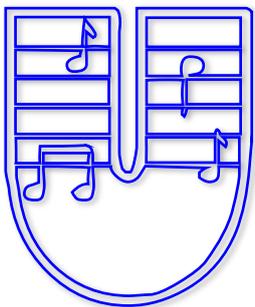


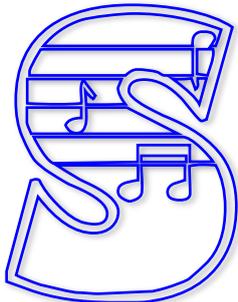
*Music: a Series of five studies on
Music and the Bible.*



is for making melody



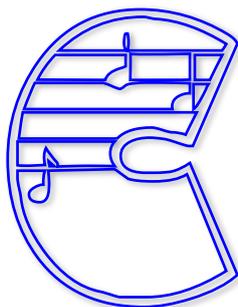
is for unison



is for symphony



is for instruments



is for cherished

Music Bible Study

Week 1: "M" is for Making Melody

We can give thanks to God for his gift of music, and we do make use of it, in many special occasions. Singing, music, can be used at almost any event! We sing "Happy Birthday" at a birthday party. We sing the national anthem at important occasions. This desire to sing, and to sing all kinds of songs in all kinds of settings this is something God has placed into all people, not just Christians.

"...be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" Ephesians 5: 18 – 19

But what our Bible verse is talking about is something more than that. This is not just any old singing that Paul (who wrote this Bible Verse) is encouraging us to do. And what he's wanting us to do, as Christians, is especially to use God's gift of music and singing for a specific purpose. It's not just "singing and making melody." It's "singing and making melody *to the Lord.*"

"*To the Lord.*" That's what makes this kind of music distinctive. It's sung by Christians, to the Lord whom we know, the Lord who has made us, who saved us, and who loves us.

To sing this way is God's will for us. This is what he wants us to do. He knows this is what is good for us. To sing out our faith. This is a way that our faith is strengthened, through putting it into music and song. This is how we apply our faith and express our faith, in all the situations we face throughout life. We sing our beliefs. We express our joys. We cry over sad things. We lift up our prayers and our praises to the Lord. And we can do it all in song, as well as in the spoken word. God wants us to do these things. He knows that's what's best for us!

When you accept Christ as your Saviour, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your heart. The Spirit-filled Christian is a song-filled Christian! Pews or pulpits or Bibles or buildings cannot sing —only you. And your melody is broadcasted right into heaven, where God is *always* listening. . . where the sounds of *your* songs are always loved 

Singing to the Lord must be "in your hearts," not merely external words or instruments. Paul uses the expression "sing and make melody" from the Hebrew Bible.

- **THOUGHT:** How do you remember the alphabet? Sing the alphabet song! Catchy melodies, good or bad, easily get into our minds. Have you ever had a song stuck in your head all day and you keep singing it? (That can be annoying, can't it???)

Imagine how your thoughts would be changed if you had songs about God's love and grace repeating in your mind throughout the day instead of lyrics that are not Biblical, like *some* of the modern pop songs. When you have lyrics in your head that proclaim characteristics of God and his love, it highlights Scripture. (*Note: this does not mean that all modern songs are bad.*)

Can you put this Ephesians 5 as it is written above into your own words? (There is no right or wrong answer)

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Music Bible Study

Can you make an effort to add one or two songs to your day. Remind yourself, of the words of a chorus or hymn you love and add them to your shower-singing time? 😊

What does it mean to make melody to the Lord in your heart? Does it mean you have to *always* sing it out loud?

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It doesn't matter if you sound like an opera singer or a frog! You are not auditioning for the choir; you're making melody with your heart. SING OUT! I am VERY grateful that the Bible says "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." (Psalm 100:2) as I am not very tuneful, but I can be joyful!



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

Can you put this verse into your own words? (There is no right or wrong answer)

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Why is it good to have Bible passages and songs put to music?

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Music Bible Study

Week 1: "U" is for Unison

IS GOD HONORED BY MUSIC?

Unison. *Definition as it refers to Music.* "The simultaneous performance of two or more voices or instruments of the same piece of music.

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 . . . "The trumpeters and singers performed together in unison to praise and give thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices and praised the Lord with these words: 'He is so good! His faithful love endures forever!' At that moment a cloud filled the Temple of the Lord. The priests could not continue their work because the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of God." God is certainly honoured by musical worship. He entered the newly constructed temple that Solomon built for him during a musical time of praise.

It is easy to see that music is important to God. It is mentioned in the bible over 800 times. Each time we read about a heavenly experience by one of the prophets of God we see that music is heard around the throne of the Almighty. This music is never passive or soft; it is always loud and strong enough to shake the atmosphere around the throne. There are massive groups of angels and living creatures all around the Holy One singing and playing instruments.

In the Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught His disciples, He prayed, "...let it be done on earth as it is in heaven...". Music is the vehicle that carries out praises into the presence of the Father. When we join in unison with others for musical praise and worship in music we know that we know that we are in a position for the favour of God. *(Of course, music is not the ONLY thing that should be done on earth as it is done in Heaven, but it is one of them.)*

What do you think are some of the differences between singing in unison with other Christians and singing by yourself?

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Is there a time to sing in unison and a time to sing by yourself? (Making melody in your heart?)

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One of the most memorable sounds of worship together was at the first Christmas:

Music Bible Study

“Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God: ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,’ they sang, ‘and peace on earth for all those pleasing him.’ When this great army of angels had returned again to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, ‘Come on! Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’” (Luke 2: 13- 15)



Why do you think that Christians singing praise and worship in unison is important to God?

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Why do you think that Christians singing praise and worship in unison is important to us as Christians?

(Hint: From Hebrews 10: 24 – 25 “let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another”)

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Does singing praise to God in unison with other Christians involve: Just voices? Just instruments? Voices and instruments together? Sometimes voices, sometimes instruments, sometimes both?

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Why do you think that?

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- Once I was in Israel, and I went to church and there were a lot of tourists, and we sang the same hymn at the same time, but in our own native language. There were about 13 different languages, and oddly enough, instead of sounding noisy and weird, it sounded like a heavenly harmony!!!! (I know, I was surprised as well!)

Music Bible Study

Week 3: "S" is for Symphony

The Symphony of God

Musically, a symphony is an elaborate musical composition for the full orchestra. As Christians, we can harmonise like an orchestra, with God the composer and Jesus the conductor.

The word "Symphony" comes from a Greek word meaning "sounding together" or "agreement in sound" This works in Scripture ...

"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:19)

Even during prayer, when we say "Amen" which is normally translated as "so be it" it also means "I agree". You are sounding together with other Christians, in harmony.

How can Christians be a Symphony for God?

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An orchestra is not made up of individuals playing whatever their own heart desires, but works as a singular expression a musical composition. The music itself might be likened to the Spirit of God. Without the music, you could gather various people and place instruments in their hands, and they might look like an orchestra, but only by their shared playing of the symphony do they really become an orchestra.

Playing your own part in the orchestra is an act of faith. If you see your part without that of the other instruments, it makes no sense. You might only come in to the symphony in certain places, and at other points have no part to play at all! ☹️ But in keeping your eyes upon the conductor, you trust to his skill in bringing the parts together to make a sweet melody that delights the listeners.

In the same way, as individual parts of the body of Christ, there are times where it is unclear what our part is, and it may seem as if we are not involved in the various movements. But in keeping our eyes upon Jesus Christ, we can trust God to join all of the parts together His family.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27

In 1st Corinthians, Paul describes the different gifts of the family of Christ. This passage is easy to explain into the idea of an orchestra, as it shows the Spirit of God placing each Christian in the family of Christ – or musician in the orchestra – as He sees right.

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve, but we serve the same Lord. And there are different ways that God works in people, but it is the same God who works in all of us to do everything. Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person. The Spirit gives this to each one to help others. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with wisdom. And the same Spirit gives another person the ability to speak with knowledge. The same Spirit gives faith to one person and to another he gives gifts of healing. The Spirit gives to one person the power to do miracles, to another the ability to prophesy, and to another the ability to judge what is from the Spirit and what is not. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak in

Music Bible Study

different kinds of languages, and to another the ability to interpret those languages. One Spirit, the same Spirit, does all these things. The Spirit decides what to give each one.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

So to the musical side, one person is given a violin, one a piano, one an oboe etc., etc. All these instruments play together in a symphony. Christians are given different talents and gifts and all these play together in a symphony written by God (the composer) and conducted by Jesus.

What gifts has God given you? (What are you good at? What do you LOVE doing?)

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How can you use your gifts to play your part in the symphony God has written for us?

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How can you encourage others to play their part in the Symphony of God?

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Is a Symphony of God just music? I think beautiful gardens can be a symphony of colour and perfume! What else can it be? (Prayer? Worship? Bible Study? Something else?) What makes something a Symphony of God?

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What does it mean to say “Amen”?

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Music Bible Study

Week 4: "I" is for Instruments

"Praise God with the blowing of the horn. Praise him with the stringed instrument and the harp. Praise him with the tambourine and the circle dance. Praise him with strings and the pipe. Praise him with the cymbals of melodious sound. Praise him with the clashing cymbals." —PSALM 150:3-5.

These days there is a form of singing known as Acapella. This means that people do not sing with instruments, but they use only their voices to perform harmonies and melodies. Your voice can be an instrument as well, and it is a sweet sound to God's ear.

There is the chorus of a song that reads:

"I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice,
To worship You, O my soul, rejoice.
Take joy, my King, in what you hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear."

Music and musicians have always played a very large role in the worship of God. For example, when God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites, Moses' sister, Miriam, led the women in a victory song and dance. The dancers accompanied themselves with tambourines. (They called them 'timbrels') This shows how important music was to the Israelites—they had just escaped from the Egyptian army, yet many of the women had their instruments handy and ready to play. *Look up Exodus 15:20*

Later, King David arranged for thousands of musicians to play their instruments as part of worship at the tabernacle. This arrangement continued at the temple built by his son Solomon. *Look up 1 Chronicles 23:5.*

The instruments described in the Bible were made of precious wood, stretched animal skin, metal, and bone. Some were inlaid with ivory. Strings were made of plant fibre or animal intestines. While almost no ancient instruments remain to the present day, pictures of them have survived.

The instruments used in Bible times can be divided into three basic categories:

1. Stringed instruments, such as the harp, the lyre and the lute.

Stringed Instruments The harp and the lyre were light, portable instruments with strings stretched over a wooden frame. David played a stringed instrument to soothe the soul of anguished King Saul. *Look up 1 Samuel 16:23*

These instruments were used at the dedication of Solomon's temple and on other joyous occasions, such as festivals. *Look up 2 Chronicles 5:12; 9:11.*

The lute was similar to the harp, but it usually differed in shape. It often consisted of a few strings stretched over a frame that held a sounding board. The vibrating strings may have produced melodious tones not unlike the classical guitar of today. The strings were made of twisted vegetable fibres or animal intestines. (ewwww!)

2. Wind instruments, such as the horn or shofar the trumpet, flute and pipe.

Wind Instruments These instruments are often mentioned in the Bible. One of the most ancient is the Jewish horn, known as the shofar. This hollowed-out ram's horn produced loud, piercing tones. The Israelites used the shofar to assemble troops in battle and to direct the nation to action. *Look up Judges 3:27; 7:22.*

Another type of wind instrument was the metal-tube trumpet. A document found among the Dead Sea Scrolls indicates that musicians could play a surprisingly wide range of tones on these

Music Bible Study

instruments. Jehovah instructed Moses to make two trumpets of silver for use at the tabernacle. *Look up Numbers 10:2-7*

Later, at the inauguration of Solomon’s temple, 120 trumpets added their mighty sound to the celebration. *Look up 2 Chronicles 5:12, 13.* Craftsmen made trumpets of different lengths. Some measured at least 91 cm from mouthpiece to bell-shaped front.

A favourite wind instrument of the Israelites was the flute. Its happy, melodious sound lifted the spirit of people attending family gatherings, feasts, and weddings. *Look up 1 Kings 1:40 and Isaiah 30:29*

The sound of the flute could also be heard at funerals, where musicians played songs. *Look up Matthew 9:23.*



This is a picture of a Shofar (a Ram’s horn) which was taken in Jerusalem.)

3. Percussion instruments

Percussion Instruments When the Israelites celebrated, they used a variety of percussion instruments. The rhythmic sounds helped to rouse strong emotions. The tambourine, made of an animal skin stretched taut over a round wooden frame, produced a drum-like thump as the musician or dancer struck the instrument with his hand. When the musician shook the frame, loosely attached bells produced a rhythmic jingle.

Another percussion instrument was known as the sistrum. It had an oval-shaped metal frame and a handle, as well as crossbars that held loose metal disks. When rapidly shaken to and fro, a sistrum made a stark jingling sound.

Bronze cymbals made an even sharper sound. Cymbals were discs of two sizes. Large clashing cymbals were boldly struck together. Smaller melodious cymbals were played between two fingers. Both produced clashing sounds but of different strengths. *Look up Psalm 150:5*

Musicians played these instruments to accompany poetic songs, lively dancing, and singing. Most important, they used them in worship of the God who had blessed them with the gift of music. *Look up 1 Chronicles 15:16*

Write it here:
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Read all of Psalm 150. (It is not that long!) Now read Psalm 96 (It is not that long, either!)

Write your own Psalm or song of Praise to God on the next page. (It does not have to rhyme. Remember, the Psalms were the “Songbook” for the Hebrews. They were sung out loud, but they did not necessarily rhyme, even when they were sung in Hebrew!). What instruments would you use to accompany your Psalm or what instruments will you speak about in your Psalm? Is your Psalm for a special occasion?

Music Bible Study

Week 5: "C" is for Cherished

In the dictionary, "cherished" means to protect and care for someone lovingly, to hold them dear, to treasure them. This is what God does for us. He loves us more than we perhaps realise!

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." Psalm 139:14

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

God loves you with a love that will never end. Nothing you can do can stop God loving you. You are cherished by God. "I have loved you with an everlasting love" Jeremiah 31:3

And finally:

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 5:10

Wait... are we not studying Music? What does being cherished have to do with music? Lots!! A few weeks ago, we looked at a Symphony which is something for the whole orchestra, and how the family, or body of Christ is like a Symphony. But you are so cherished, so treasured, so loved by Jesus, that you can be your own symphony.

Your talents, your gifts are unique to you ... and only you! Like a room full of musical instruments, some of your talents may shine alone, but NOTHING can match the symphony sound when they are all played together. You are a symphony to God. Through all of eternity no one will ever look, talk, walk or do like you. You are special and you are cherished.

Read Ephesians 5:10 again as God has written it for you.

"For you are God's masterpiece. He has created you anew in Christ Jesus, so you can do the good things he planned for you long ago."



Now put YOUR name in the blanks:

For is God's masterpiece. He has created anew in

Christ Jesus, so can do the good things he planned for her long ago.

You are a cherished symphony to God! Read the next page ... it is written for you, then on the last page, put your own name in the spaces.

If you like, after you have filled out the last page, you could detach it, and keep it in your Bible or in a special place.

God bless you.

Music Bible Study

YOU ARE CHERISHED

You're cherished. In all the world there is nobody else like you. Since God created the heavens and the earth, there has never been another person like you, and there never will be. Nobody has your smile. Nobody has your eyes, your nose, your hair, your hands, your voice. You are special and you are cherished.

Nobody can be found who has your handwriting. Nobody anywhere has your tastes, for food or music or art. No one sees things just as you do. In all of time there's been no one who laughs like you, no one who cries like you. And what makes you laugh and cry will never cause identical laughter and tears from anybody else, ever. No one reacts to any situation just as you would react. You are special and you are cherished.

You're the only one in all creation who has your set of abilities.

Oh, there may be someone who is better at one of the things you're good at, but no one in the universe can reach the quality of your combination of talents, ideas, abilities, and feelings. Like a room full of musical instruments, some may excel alone, but none can match the symphony sound when all are played together. You are a symphony to God. Through all of eternity no one will ever look, talk, walk or do like you. You are special and you are cherished.

You're rare. In all rarity there is great value. Because of your great rare value, you need not attempt to imitate others. Celebrate your differences! God does. You are special and you are cherished.

It is no accident that you're cherished. God made you for a very special purpose. He has a job for you that no one else can do as well as you. No one plays your symphony of talents like you. Out of all the billions of applicants, only one is qualified, only one has the right combination of what it takes. That one is you.

Because . . . You are special and you are cherished.

God loves you with an everlasting love and your symphony of talents is a sweet, sweet sound to His ear.

“For you are God's masterpiece. He has created you anew in Christ Jesus, so you can do the good things he planned for you long ago.” Ephesians 5:10



Music Bible Study

IS CHERISHED

..... is cherished. In all the world there is nobody else like Since God created the heavens and the earth, there has never been another person like, and there never will be. Nobody has 's smile. Nobody has eyes, nose, hair, hands, or voice. special and she is cherished.

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Oh, there may be someone who is better at one of the things is good at, but no one in the universe can reach the quality of 's combination of talents, ideas, abilities, and feelings.

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Because is special and she is cherished. God loves with an everlasting love and her symphony of talents is a sweet, sweet sound to His ear.

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