A Study of the Church: Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry

• **What is the church?**
  Collection of believers
  – Indwelling Holy Spirit
  – Union with Christ
  – Began at Pentecost
  Local gathering of believers – the functional unit

• **What is the church suppose to be doing?**
  Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry

• **How does the church equip the saints?**
  Baptism
  Lord’s Supper
  Preaching
  Praying

• **How is the church organized for this work?**
  Elders and deacons
  – Teaching/preaching
  – Serving
  Discipline – moral and doctrinal purity

• **What is the work of the ministry?**
  Worship
  Singing
  Giving/stewardship
  Disciples of Jesus
  Love
  Serving the weaker brother
  Others – teaching, witnessing, praying, helping . . .
Sing a New Song
Music in the Bible

Jubal – first mention of music (Genesis 4:20-22)

The Song of Moses – first and last song of the Bible
Exodus 15 and Revelation 15:3-4

Pagan music:
• Genesis 4:20-22 – the family of Cain.
• Exodus 32:18 – singing before the golden calf.
• Isaiah 24:9 – drunken singing
• Amos 6:4-5 – “Idle songs”
• Amos 5:23 – God rejected their songs (“noise”) & music
• Ezekiel 33:32 – “lustful songs”

God sings (Zephaniah 3:17)
History of Christian Music

Biblical era:

- Judaism – Psalms
- Jesus – Matthew 26:30
- Paul and Silas – Acts 16:25
- Paul to Colosse – Colossians 3:16

Early Church History:

- "Pliny (63-113 AD) – “they were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god.”
- “Tertullian (155-230 AD) – re: agape feast: “each is asked to stand forth and sing, according to his ability, a hymn to God, either one from the holy Scriptures, or one of his own composing.”
- Spectator event – 1000 years

Reformation era:

- Jan Hus (1371-1415)
- Martin Luther (1483-1546)
- Calvin (1509-1564)
- Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
- John Wesley (1703-1791) and Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
History of Christian Music

American era:

Gospel song
- Developed in 1800s – dealing with personal salvation; often borrowed tunes from popular secular tunes.
- D.L. Moody: “Singing does at least as much as preaching to impress the Word of God upon people’s minds.”
- The Gospel Song:
  - Primary purpose is to give a testimony or an exhortation, a warning or an invitation
  - Used primarily in evangelistic, revival and fellowship services
  - Music usually rhythmically fast or lilting
  - The use of a chorus or refrain at the end of each stanza
- Charles Alexander
  - song leader as the master of ceremonies
  - “warming up” the audience
  - large community choirs

Contemporary
- Similar to the Gospel Songs – emphasis on personal experience
- More deliberate attempt to incorporate popular music styles and methods
- Intent to “entice” the unbeliever into the Christian lifestyle
- Encourage emotional displays or feelings
- Often a overt rejection of classic hymns as archaic and irrelevant
Sing a New Song!
Biblical Principles

1. A command – “Sing . . .!
   • Psalm 96:1
   • Psalm 95:1
   • Psalm 100:1-2

2. Sing to the Lord
   • Acts 16:25 – Paul and Silas
   • Exodus 15:1 – Song of Moses
   • Revelation 15:3-4 – Song of Moses

3. Praise and exaltation of God.
   • Psalm 96
     • Bless His Name
     • Tell of His salvation
     • Declare His glory
     • Declare His marvelous works
     • He is to be praised
   • Psalm 100
     • A joyful noise
     • He is God
     • He is Creator
     • He is our Shepherd
     • He is good
     • He is merciful and faithful

4. Singing from the Word of God.
   • Colossians 3:15.
   • Psalm 96 and Psalm 100
Sing a New Song!
Biblical Principles

5. Sing a new song!
   • Psalm 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1; Isa. 42:10; Rev. 5:9; 14:3
   • The emphasis is upon your daily experience with God

6. Sing an old song!
   • The song of Moses: Exodus 15:1f; Deuteronomy 31:30f; Revelation 15:3-4
   • The model hymn
Sing a New Song – 2005

1. Sing to God
2. Make melody
3. Sing Truth
4. Sing in holiness
5. Sing the old and the new song