

For Our Information

Brenda Keisler received shots in one side of her neck last week. She will have the other side done in a couple of weeks. This should relieve her neck pain for a while.

Jordan Wright is doing much better this week. Paula Laubach is doing better also.

Pray. Pray for our brethren. Pray for the Lord's Work. Pray for peace. Pray for our country. Then do your part to help it be done.

Keep your brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

same realization sooner or later. Good hymns aren't good hymns simply because their authors were smart. They're good because those authors knew the Bible so well that when they wrote, they wrote from the overflow of the word in their hearts. We may know hymns better than the Bible, but in many cases, we know the Bible because we know hymns. If those hymns are teaching us Bible from our earliest youth, so much the better!

Good Hymns Are Beautiful. Time has a sorting effect on all works of art. After decades and centuries have passed, generally it is only the good that we remember. The mediocre and bad fade mercifully into oblivion. Good hymns survive not only because they are good hymns, but because they are good art. They are beautiful to read, and they are beautiful to sing.

(Hymns that help us remain faithful are one more weapon against the evil of this world. DLH)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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Seeking His Righteousness

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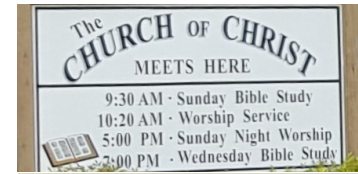
Good Hymns

Matthew W. Bassford

(In a recent post titled "Good Hymns and Children" Matthew Bassford lists several reasons why children will benefit from learning good hymns. His reasons point to the usefulness of hymns throughout our life. I am printing his reasons for each of us to consider. I encourage you to visit HisExcellentWord.blogspot.com and read the entire article. DLH)

Good Hymns Are Memorable. There is something about song that engages the memory. How many song lyrics do all of us remember from the then-current radio repertoire when we were teenagers? There are a number of such songs that I can easily recall even though I don't want to!

In addition, most good hymns have



I will sing of the lovingkindness of the Lord forever; To all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth.

Psalm 89:1



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

structural qualities that make them even more memorable. One such quality is rhyme. Many lines in Shakespeare's plays rhyme not because Shakespeare was attempting to be pretty, but because he wanted to make them easier for actors to memorize.

Similarly, rhythmic, metered language engages the memory in ways that ordinary writing does not. It's a big part of the reason why The Iliad, which was originally an oral composition, is in dactylic hexameter. The patterns helped Homer and his contemporaries to remember it.

Though we don't often consider the impact of all of this, it is widespread and profound. Unless a church has fallen into the trap of changing out its repertoire every two years to chase the praise-band flavor of the month, its worship services will inevitably teach its members to memorize hymns. I'm certain that nearly all Christians know many more hymn verses by heart than Bible verses.

What's more, these memories are uniquely resistant to the passage of time. I haven't done it so much recently, but in years past, I often spent my Sunday afternoons visiting older Christians in nursing homes to pray and sing with them. Naturally, these impromptu worship services were open to everyone, so we would be visited by a number of residents, many of whom clearly suffered from advanced dementia. They would shuffle (or be wheeled) into the room where we were meeting and sit staring blankly off into space until we began to sing. Then, people who may not even have known their own names anymore could sing "Amazing Grace" or "Take the Name of Jesus with You" start to finish, without missing a single word or note.

There is nothing so deeply graven on our hearts as

Store In My Heart

Ephesians 1:22-23

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Jesus is ruler of everything, the world, governments, men, animals, earth, sun, moon, stars, etc. There is nothing in existence that is not under the power and authority of Christ. Only God the Father is above Him.

Jesus is separately designated as head of the church. This gives him alone complete authority to direct its function and mission. No man can decide what the church should do without first consulting the commands given by the Head. As with your physical body, all parts of the church work only under the direction of the Head.

the hymns we learn in worship. When I see my children beginning to learn them, I know they are acquiring a treasure they will retain to the end of their lives and beyond.

Good Hymns Are True. If hymns were content-neutral, the ease with which we remember them wouldn't matter. However, as a spiritual guide, the hymns we know by heart are second in importance only to the Bible. Rare is the sermon that is as central to our faith as a hymn!

In fact, precisely because we know them so well, the hymns we sing are our first answer to the challenges of life. A bad hymn may not be able to meet those challenges, but a good hymn will be. When we encounter trial, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" reminds us to pray. When we are uncertain, "Give Me the Bible" directs us to the word. When grief overwhelms us, "Be Still, My Soul" reassures us that sorrow lasts for a moment, but joy in Christ will last forever. And so on, through hymn after hymn. Unless we are a people of song, we are no better equipped to face these things than the people of the world are.

Similarly, good hymns serve as a gateway to the Bible. On the way home from that singing, my wife and I were talking with our 6-year-old daughter, Zoë, about her favorite line in her favorite hymn. She replied that her favorite was the line in "In Christ Alone" that reads, "No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand."

"Did you know that that's in the Bible too?" we asked her.

"Really? Wow; that's amazing!" she exclaimed, and from there, we spent the next couple of minutes talking about John 10:28 and Romans 8:38-39.

I suspect that every thoughtful Christian comes to the