

The background of the cover is a collage of musical notation, including staves with notes, clefs, and fingerings. A small, light-colored dog is visible in the upper right corner. The text is centered and reads:

**Bible
Helps
for
Music
Choices**

By: J. Paul Reno

BIBLE HELPS FOR MUSIC CHOICES

**Your music...
tuned in to God or the world???**

J. Paul Reno

Is our music important to God?

Does God care about our music choices?

Has HE taught us how to distinguish between helpful and damaging music?

Does the subject of men and music occupy much space in the Scriptures?

The answer to all of these questions is a resounding, "YES!"

Consider:

Psalms: 1) Longest book in the Bible

2) The Jewish hymnal

3) To be sung (Eph. 5:19)

4) Located in the middle of the Bible

Song of Solomon: 1) Picturing Jesus and the believer

2) Beautiful, sacred and poetical singing

Song of Moses: Exodus 15:1-19

Song of Deborah: Judges 5:1-12

Song of David: II Sam. 22:1 –51

Song of Zion: Psalm 137:3

Song of the Lamb: Rev. 15:3

Song of drunkards: Psalm 69:12

Song of harlots: Isa. 23:15,16

Song of fools: Eccl. 7:5

1. God has a great interest in singing and songs. Variety and frequency tell us much.
 - a. "Song" appears 76 times.
 - b. "Songs" appears 23 times.
 - c. "Sing" appears 104 times.
 - d. "Singing" appears 33 times.
 - e. "Sang" appears 12 times.

f. "Sung" appears 5 times.

(Over 250 usages in all!)

2. Praise for God's deliverances and victories.
3. Contrast of sinners and their songs.

I Sam. 16:14-23

1. King Saul suffering from an evil spirit (demon).
2. Problem, cause and cure understood.
3. Solution was proper music vss. 15,16
4. Need for playing harp to be done "well" vs. 17.
5. Spiritual condition of the musician is important vs. 18.
6. Proper music by a spiritual musician can bring refreshment, wellness and deliverance from demonic troubling.

II Kings 3:15,16

- 1. Elisha needed direction from God to give to the King.**
- 2. A minstrel was called for, came and played.**
- 3. God's hand and direction came during proper music.**

Acts 16:25

- 1. Paul and Silas have been beaten and put in jail in Philippi.**
- 2. Prayer and singing of praises are mixed.**
- 3. Prisoners heard and were affected. The jailor was converted.**

Heb. 2:12

- 1. Jesus (vss. 9-12), the Head of the Church, promises to sing in the Church.**
- 2. We should learn how to adjust to Him in singing rather than expect Him to adjust to us.**

Mark 14:26

- 1. Jesus had the disciples join Him in a hymn after He had ended the first Communion Service and before His trial and crucifixion.**
- 2. Considering the timing and location, what solemn singing this must have been.**

I Cor. 14:26

- 1. Individuals may bring a psalm with them to sing at the gathering of the saints.**
- 2. All special music should serve to edify the saints, not showcase a performer.**

Eph. 5:19,20

- 1. Singing reflects our relationship to God.**
- 2. Our choice of music reveals the character of our soul.**
- 3. Saints are to be filled with the Holy Spirit (vs. 18).**
- 4. Singing is a way of speaking to ourselves.**
- 5. Singing should flow from an humble heart.**

6. Singing should be to the Lord.
7. Three categories of music are given for the saints to sing:
 - a. Psalms – from the book of Psalms
 - b. Hymns – majestic music about God, His character and His great acts.
 - c. Spiritual Songs – music of request, praise, thanksgiving, testimony, spiritual ballads, spiritual experience.
8. This music is needed to prepare us for church usefulness (vs. 21), home relationships (vss. 22-6:4), job usefulness (6:5-9), spiritual warfare (6:10-17) and prayer (6:18-20).
9. None of this is for self, self-glory or display of abilities.
10. It is to prepare us to battle the world, the flesh and/or the devil. Never is it for us to join the enemy, sound like them or please them.

Col. 3:15-17

1. Proper singing is tied to God's Word dwelling in us – richly!

2. **Wisdom from the Scriptures prepares for good heart singing.**
3. **Right singing will produce a teaching effect on the saints.**
4. **All three categories of proper Christian music are helpful to the benefit of the saints.**
5. **Proper music works with peace to our hearts, thanks to God, and praise to Jesus our Lord.**

Gal. 5:22-23 – Fruit of the Spirit is music related.

1. **Love**
2. **Joy**
3. **Peace**
4. **Gentleness**
5. **Faith**
6. **Meekness**
7. **Temperance**

Good music works in harmony with the Holy Spirit.

Good music is reflected in inner and outer traits.

Gal. 5:19-21 - Wrong music works with the flesh.

Wrong music exposes itself in inner and outer traits of the flesh. Wrong music affects:

- 1. Adultery**
- 2. Fornication**
- 3. Uncleanness**
- 4. Lasciviousness**
- 5. Idolatry**
- 6. Witchcraft**
- 7. Emulations**
- 8. Seditious**
- 9. Heresies**
- 10. Drunkenness**
- 11. Revellings**
- 12. Such like**

Much religious compromise and toleration of sin can be traced to forms of music which appeal to the flesh, please the flesh, and cooperate with the flesh.

I Thess. 5:23

- 1. Our WHOLE spirit, soul and body are to be preserved blameless.**
- 2. Nothing is to bring corruption into our 3-part being.**
- 3. Music can protect, purify and bless in all 3 areas.**
- 4. Music can be positive or negative in its effects.**
- 5. We need to evaluate how various words and/or music affect our being.**
- 6. We must hold to music which will preserve our bodies, souls, and spirits blameless. We just reject all that which damages us.**
- 7. Music is composed of 3 parts: Melody, Harmony and Rhythm.**
- 8. Music carries a message which may or may not be related to words.**
- 9. Music has a message and influence even without words. (David and Saul; Minstrel and Elisha etc.)**

Amos 5:21-23

- 1. God does NOT automatically approve of our music.**
- 2. Here God rejects their worship (vs. 21), offerings (vs.22), songs and music (vs.23)**
- 3. God discerns what HE will listen to based on:**
 - Kind or type**
 - Motives**
 - Spiritual condition of performers**
- 4. We need to discern and judge (vs. 15).**

Ezekiel 28:13

- 1. Satan is a created being.**
- 2. He had a high place in Heaven before his sin (vs.14).**
- 3. His covering (skin) was mineral and beautiful.**
- 4. His design included an ability to produce music (built in):**
 - Tabrets**
 - Pipes**

5. When Satan fell, he maintained his ability to produce music with his interest in using it, --- though now he was deprived in all areas.

Gen. 4:21

1. Jubal was a descendant of wicked Cain and of a corrupted line which polluted planet earth.
2. His father was a proud murderer.
3. His children handled the harp and the organ.

Ex. 32:17-25

1. Joshua heard the “noise” and shout of the people as “a noise of war” (vs. 17).
2. He heard the singing which neither had the sound of victory or surrender (vs. 18).
3. The confused singing was actually dancing in idolatry (vs.19).
4. Wrong singing pressed the leader Aaron to compromise, cooperate and sin to maintain leadership (vss. 21,22).

5. Wrong singing indicated loss of vision to go to the Promised Land and loss of obedience to the Ten Commandments given by God.
6. Wrong music affects dress, lack of dress and shame (vs.25).
7. Some music though words may not be heard, is still inherently wrong.

Eccl. 2:8,11

1. Solomon gathered “men singers” and “women singers” and many sorts of “musical instruments” (vs.8).
2. Gathering of the best available was “vanity”, “vexation of spirit” and “no profit”.
3. The music, in this case, may not have been bad, but it was of “no profit” (vs.11).

Isa. 23:15,16

1. The harlot here is a singer.

2. She uses a harp and sings to the public, makes a sweet melody, and sings a variety of songs.
3. Her singing turned her from a forgotten harlot into a remembered singer. It did not change what she was.
4. Many today copy the harlot in their music and style in religious circles.

Dan. 3:5

1. Nebuchadnezzar knew the power of music to induce worship of an idol.
2. His use of “all kinds of music” was manipulation to change the will of God’s men (vss. 5,7,10,15)
3. Three godly men resisted the influence of this music (no words) and would not bend their convictions, bow to the idol and false gods, nor burn in the King’s furnace.
4. Will WE remain standing???

Job 38:4-8

- 1. Vs. 7 Singing at the start of Creation**
- 2. Man did not create music, God did!**
- 3. God also created man with abilities for music.**
- 4. God gave us proper music.**
- 5. Satan, the world and the flesh could corrupt music.**
- 6. Man was designed by God**
 - a. Heart rhythms**
 - b. Brain waves**
 - c. Bio rhythms**
 - d. Emotions etc**
- 7. Violation of design by wrong music (and rhythm) affects our ability to function in a godly manner.**
- 8. God designed math –**
 - a. Each note has a precise number of waves all its own**
 - b. Notes out of tune have a differing number**
 - c. Chords are made of several notes**
 - d. Right chords are easily recognized mathematically as having high common divisors – poor chords are not so**

9. God's designs of music, man, and math all point to His music.

Deut. 31:19-32:44

Vs. 19

- 1. God commands a song for His people**
- 2. It was a way of teaching, warning and correction**

Vs. 21

- 1. God knows our tendencies to wander**
- 2. God wants songs to testify to us**

Vss. 22, 30

- 1. God has people write needed songs**
- 2. We need to teach these types of songs**

Deut 32:44

- 1. Joshua assisted Moses in teaching this song**
- 2. We need instruction in right songs**

I Chron. 6:31-39

- 1. Vs. 31 Song is a form of service to God**
- 2. Here it precedes the giving of offerings (vs. 40)**
- 3. This singing was organized**
 - a. Vs. 31 done by David**
 - b. Used in the tabernacle as well as the temple later**
- 4. Singing is called a ministry vs. 32, 48**

I Chron. 15:22

- 1. Instruction in singing is Biblical.**
- 2. Instructors need to be skillful themselves**
- 3. The art of singing and song can be improved through submitting to teaching.**

I Chron. 23:1-11

- 1. Vs. 5 Selected individuals played instruments for worship.**

2. Instruments (music without words) were played with ability to praise God.
3. This was done with instruments created/built for this purpose.
4. Vss. 6-10 Instrumentalists were divided to rotate in their service.
5. This would keep the focus on God being worshipped rather than an individual dominating the position.

I Chron. 25:1-7

1. Vs. 1 Musicians were separated to their work.
2. Proper instrumental music was to prophesy!
Music for sound of admiration of skill is useless at best. It should teach/preach to the soul...
3. Vs. 3 Proper instrumental music will give thanks and praise to God.
4. Proper music will minister spiritually.
5. Vs. 7 Skill is of the level of "cunning."

II Chron. 5:13-14

- 1. Instruments and singing joined together**
- 2. Proper music brought the glory of God on the scene at the dedication of the temple.**
- 3. God's glory was central not man's.**

II Chron. 20:20-22

- 1. Singing was linked with faith.**
- 2. Victory was won by God when HIS people sang properly.**
- 3. Contrast this with music of the heathen.**

II Chron. 29:25-30

- 1. Vs. 25 God's preachers commanded the use of old fashioned music as taught by David (perhaps 300 years before)**
- 2. Vss. 26-30 Hezekiah used the old instruments and music to help the people worship.**
- 3. This enabled them to properly "consecrate" themselves to God. (Vs.11)**
- 4. Music was unchanged in three centuries.**

Neh. 12:45,46

- 1. Music re-established under Nehemiah.**
- 2. NOT some new sound but old – from perhaps six centuries before.**
- 3. God had blessed it and they would use it.**

Jer. 6:16

- 1. God teaches us to seek the “old paths”.**
- 2. This applies to music.**
- 3. Thus we should avoid the novel, new modern, contemporary.**
- 4. The new songs of God bear similarity to the old songs of God rather than similarity to the world.**
- 5. We should seek God’s blessing rather than lost and/or worldly man’s approval.**

I Kings 4:30-32

- 1. Solomon was exceedingly wise.**

2. He provided 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs.
3. We should get our music from the Biblically wise.

Rev. 5:9

1. Saints will be singing in Heaven.
2. Great Bible themes will be the basis of our song.

Rev. 14:2,3

1. Heavenly players of harps play well enough to put voice to the harp's singing.
2. There will be a song for a particular group in Heaven.
3. Some music is for distinct groups.

Rev. 15:2-4

1. God has harps in Heaven.
2. Victorious saints from the Great Tribulation will also sing.

3. Here are two more Heavenly songs.
4. Notice the great themes of Christ that are the basis of singing in Heaven.

Isa. 30:29

1. God here gives instructions for producing a song.
2. It should reflect a song of a night when a holy solemnity is kept.
3. There should be the element of gladness as when a pipe is played when one approaches God on His throne.
4. There must be a reflection of who God is, His might, and His workings.

Job 35:10

1. God gives songs for particular times and needs.
2. As Creator He suits music to our needs and benefits.
3. Notice some Biblical examples:

- a. Songs in the Night Job 35:10
 - b. Songs of deliverance Psalm 32:7
 - c. Songs of the house of my pilgrimage
Psalm 119:54
 - d. Songs of Zion Psalm 137:3
 - e. Lord's song Psalm 137:4
4. You may add many others to this short list.
 5. God is a God of variety within His self-imposed limits.
 6. The writer has personally observed at least twenty-two separate cultural types of gospel singing which fit within the biblical guidelines. He has also personally observed a number of cases which were unbiblical. Sometimes there was a distinct quenching of the Holy Spirit and perhaps a grieving etc. Sadly, those involved were dead to their offense. (or unaware)

Eph 2:1-12

- 1. Vs. 1 We are either dead or alive in spiritual issues including sensitivity to the music issue.**
- 2. Separation is a distinction between lost and saved.**
- 3. Music reflects our separation from the world, the flesh and the devil.**
- 4. We are to be separated to God and HIS service.**
- 5. How do your music choices reflect your salvation, separation and service?**

Does YOUR choice of music lead you to:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. More holiness | 1. More practice of sin |
| 2. Separation from the world | 2. Compromise and lower standards |
| 3. Sacrificial giving | 3. Covetousness |
| 4. Answers to prayer | 4. Glib saying of prayers |

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5. Closer walk with the Lord | 5. Shallow religious acts and comfort in the world |
| 6. Pure thoughts | 6. Sensual thoughts |
| 7. Calmness, peace | 7. Irritability or anger |
| 8. Love of God's Word | 8. Use of clichés and/or worldly phrases |
| 9. Clear Biblical guidance | 9. Confusion in decision making |
| 10. Open doors to advance God's work | 10. Treadmill of wasted effort |

Your choice of music style reveals the character of your soul.

If your choice of music reduced your answers to prayer by 50% or 90%...would you change?

If your choice of music affected your worship and hearing from God (positively or negatively) would it make a difference?

If your choice of music affected your spiritual state, your home's harmony, your testimony, or your children's and/or spouses behavior would you change?

Is your choice of music leads to separation or compromise; holiness or sin; calmness or anger; purity or sensual thoughts, does that matter to you?



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