SING UNTO THE LORD

 **O sing unto the Lord a new song**; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. **2** The Lord hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. **3** He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. **5** Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. **6** With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King. **7** Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. **8** Let the floods clap *their* hands: let the hills be joyful together **9** Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity. PSALMS 98.

 “O sing unto the Lord a new song” are the words of the Psalmist. He seems to command praise for the Lord. The Psalmist gives his reasons which are: the marvelous things done by God; the victories wrought by the hand and arm of our Lord; and the salvation given to us by the Almighty. Yes, we have reason to sing. Pleasant View is known as a singing church but although we sing well, it is still quite possible to lose our enthusiasm, our joy, and the feeling that should be delivered from a grateful heart. Without the emotion coming from our hearts, our singing is vanity. It is just empty. I can remember making my children apologize for unkind deeds and many times their apologies were empty and meaningless, just words that could float away in the breeze.

I love singing but there are times I become obsessed with finding my part, hitting the right note, harmonizing with those around me; my love for singing overshadows the reason for singing. In other words I honor the singing more than I do the song. We have wonderful hymns that possess wonderful words of praise, prayer and message but if we do not connect with those precious words and with a passionate heart **sing unto the Lord**, we miss the whole reason for singing.

The last part of our text speaks of nature’s praise. In nineteen ninety-seven I went with some youth to Cheeha Mountain on a camping trip. As I bedded down in my tent that first night the sounds of crickets, tree frogs and all the other night time creatures became so loud I could not sleep. Just before dawn all became quite. Listening to all those sounds, I discovered a rhythm and certain harmony in all that sound. Now if unredeemed nature can do that, what do you think is expected from fallen man who has been bought with the ultimate price of redemption, the blood of Jesus! Many years ago J. O. Keen suggested that we have been musicless too long, dormant and mute too long, that we should sing unto the Lord a new song for our mercies are new every day, our gifts are given anew all the time and God is doing marvelous things again and again. Oh Church, look past the notes and dig deep into the song, let the song find rest in your soul and may its glories burst forth in rapturous praise unto The Lord!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram