

Let's Sing Well

We sing well by _____ our _____ to sing.

We sing well by _____ our _____ in all God has done.

We sing well by _____ _____ into our praise of God.

We sing well by _____ _____ enough for others to know our joy.



NEHEMIAH

Ephesians 5:18–20

^[18] And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ^[19] addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ^[20] giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (ESV)

Colossians 3:16

^[16] 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. (ESV)

Nehemiah 12:27–43

^[27] And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. ^[28] And the sons of the singers gathered together from the district surrounding Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; ^[29] also from Beth-gilgal and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem. ^[30] And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall.

^[31] Then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great choirs that gave thanks. One went to the south on the wall to the Dung Gate. ^[32] And after them went Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah, ^[33] and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, ^[34] Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah, ^[35] and certain of the priests' sons with trumpets: Zechariah the son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, son of Asaph; ^[36] and his relatives, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them. ^[37] At the Fountain Gate they went up straight before them by the stairs of the city of David, at the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, to the Water Gate on the east.

^[38] The other choir of those who gave thanks went to the north, and I followed them with half of the people, on the wall, above the Tower of the Ovens, to the Broad Wall, ^[39] and above the Gate of Ephraim, and by the Gate of Yeshanah, and by the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, to the Sheep Gate; and they came to a halt at the Gate of the Guard. ^[40] So both choirs of those who gave thanks stood in the house of God, and I and half of the officials with me; ^[41] and the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; ^[42] and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang with Jezrahiah as their leader. ^[43] And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away. (ESV)

Titus 2:11–14

^[11] For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ^[12] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ^[13] waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ^[14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

Let's Sing Well

August 21, 2022

Open: What's one of your favorite worship songs, and what makes it meaningful to you?

Read: Nehemiah 12:27-43

Discuss:

1. Verse 27 says that the leaders sought to bring the people to Jerusalem "to celebrate the dedication with gladness." Given what we've seen so far in Nehemiah, what reasons did the people have to celebrate? Why would it have been important for them to ensure that their celebration was characterized by "gladness"?
2. What are some reasons we have to celebrate when we come together to worship every Sunday? Is it essential that our celebrations are characterized by *gladness*? Why or why not?
3. Their celebration and time of worship also involved a time of corporate singing (v. 27). Why must our worship of God include times of singing together in a corporate context? (What is lost when we neglect this practice?)
4. According to verse 30, prior to gathering, "the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall." Why would this have been important to do? Would this principle apply to us as New Testament Believers? If so, how?
5. Both choirs that were appointed "gave thanks" (v. 31, 38). Why is thanksgiving an essential component of worship? What else, besides thanksgiving, should characterize our worship of God? Do you recognize any ways that your worship (or our own church's worship) could use some strengthening in one or more areas? Explain.
6. Verse 43 tells us on this day of celebration, the people "rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy." Given this, how might you encourage someone who is struggling to experience joy in worship on any given Sunday?
7. Verse 43 also tells us that "the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away." What might we do to see that our joy in worshipping God is recognized by others?

Apply: How are you challenged by the worship of the Israelites in this passage? Be specific.

Pray: Ask God to help us worship Him wholeheartedly and with much joy.

Nehemiah 12:27-43

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