



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – May 11, 2025

Heart to Heart...

Let me give you a few thoughts about the songs we sing. Spiritual songs, psalms and hymns are to fill our hearts and express our care and love for the Lord. *"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord."* (Ephesians 5:19). They teach, warn and bring the reality of God's word to each of us. *"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, and hymns and spiritual song, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."* (Colossians 3:16). We need to realize what we are doing in our singing. It's not an individual thing, where one person sings to the whole or a specially chosen choir but the whole is involved in their singing to the Lord from a heart of thankfulness. God's choir is the whole congregation singing. That is the God intended purpose.

Isaac Watts was born in England in 1674. His father was sent to prison for non-conformity with the state religion. The songs that surrounded people and religion were about gloom, disappointment and doom. They were dreary and dark. Isaac often complained about the songs that if the Lord wanted us to sing and make melody to the Lord from our hearts, we should have better spiritual songs and hymns. Isaac began his work of writing some new songs, with his insight into Scripture, at the age of 18, which was enthusiastically received by the congregation. For the next two years Isaac wrote a new hymn text every Sunday. In 1707 he published a collection of 210 hymns. In his lifetime he wrote over 600. Just listen to these words: *"The Lord my Shepherd is; I shall be well supplied; since He is mine and I am His, what can I want beside? What can I want beside?"* (page 126 in our book) *"When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride."* (page 315 in our book) *"Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward*

to Zion, the beautiful city of God.” (page 869 in our book) *“I’m not ashamed to own my Lord, nor to defend His cause; maintain the honors of His word. The glory of His cross.”* (page 609 in our book) These are just a few that we sing that Isaac wrote. They speak volumes about our faith and express it to God. We need to sing from our hearts, be thankful as we teach in our songs. What do you sing or not sing? Do you allow the word of Christ to richly dwell in you in your singing? Think about it!!!

Brent