

West Valley Church of Christ – August 27, 2023

18604 Lower Buckeye Rd.
Goodyear AZ 85338
P.O. Box 67, Buckeye, AZ 85326

Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Devotional: 6:30 p.m.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT SONG

Songs were used in the Old Testament to teach and express gratitude toward God. Songs were written for significant events such as the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 15) or as a reminder of God's laws and manner for living (Deuteronomy 32). Songs were expressions of thanksgiving for God's gifts (I Samuel 2) and cries for help in time of trouble or discouragement (Psalm 13). Songs in the Old Testament all resulted in pure praise to God (Psalm 8). The songs we sing today in the Christian Age still perform these functions as we obey the New Testament command to "Sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19b). "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).

Singing is one way for everyone to actively participate in our assemblies. Each person can express their deepest feelings to God through the songs we sing. Listening as others sing has some benefit, but only by singing the words ourselves can we realize the full meaning and depth in our inner being. It is not how well we can carry a tune that impresses God when we sing, but the active expressions and confessions of our hearts in song. Let's resolve to continue to sing with the spirit and understanding in our assemblies.



Clark Tatum