

## **The Kinds of Christian Hymn** by Dr. Grace Oh

James Davies who was a church musician, in his book, ***Sing with understanding***, classified the christian hymn as follows. This is classified according to the received objects that are based on the contents of lyrics

- (1) The song that the man says to God.
- (2) The song that the man says to man
- (3) The song that the man says of God

Generally according to the classification of christian hymn it is divided as follows;

- (1) Hymns
- (2) Gospel Hymns
- (3) Gospel Songs

### **1) Hymns**

It is the song that the man says to God about God. And it is the vertical song from the man to Trinity God, the Father God, the Son God and the Holy Spirit God . It has the contents as followings.

(1) Adoration: it is the contents that lift up God and glorify Him. Terminologically it is the core of hymn.

On A. D. 633, Augustine emphasized this point very importantly as the concept and definition of the hymn that was adopted by the Council of Toledo. Very narrowly it is the necessary element of the concept of the hymn.

“the hymn is the song that praise God. If it does not include the elements that sing and praise God or, even though it has only the song without praising. Therefore the hymn should have three elements as followings; first, canticum second, laudem and third, to praise God (Deus) as the song.

(2) Confession: it is the contents of confession that is taken the pledge to have the right relation to God. So it includes the repentant contents personally and publicly.

(3) Thanksgiving: it is the thanksgiving contents. It contains the devotional contents that makes decision in his heart.

(4) Supplication: it is the petition.

In one aspect the Hymn Society of America defined the hymn of Carl F. Price as followings;

“The christian hymn is a lyric that is expressed godly and devotion ally. It is the purpose of God in the life of man, the songs that expressed the attitude of the worshiper towards God and in the life of the man. Because it has simple and rhythmical, pure inspiration form and the poetry, literal expression, the spiritual quality, the direct obvious thought, as the hymn is sang, the congregation will become one. ”

※ The ending part of a songs that are offered to the trinity or, the first person of them directly are attached by Amen code. This Amen had been come by William Hunnis in British, on 1583 that he published his works, the book of the hymn. The present book of hymn reveals that it

applied to “Worship song”, “praising and worshiping” and “Jesus Christ” under the sequence of the hymn book.

## **2) Gospel Hymns**

- It is the song that the man say to God about the man. However It is not direct to God but consists of the vessels or means to accomplish the work of the redemption those are; the lyrics to praise and to thank the cross, the love, the precious blood and the beauty, honor of all created things. Therefore it is to praise God indirectly .

“This is My Father's World”(78) “Down at the Cross Where my Savior Died”(182) “There is a Fountain Filled with Blood”(190) “On a Hill far away”(135) etc belong in here.

※ Without adding Amen the hymn of contents that is offered to God directly should be attached Amen code.

## **3) Gospel Songs**

It is the song that the man sings to man about God. The hymn is the song and the man offers to God directly and the gospel hymn is indirect to offer to God indirectly, but gospel song is the lyric song to spread vertical direction and it's contents are very simple. The theme include the testimony, the proclamation, the edification, the education and etc. experimentally and subjectively.

"Work for the Night is coming"(370) "What a wonderful Chang"(208) "Would you be Free from your Burden of Sin"(202) "O, Come Home"(317) "Are you Weary"(484) etc belong in here.

※ The ending part of the gospel song should not been attached amen

code.

As we saw the above, although we classified in three kinds according to the objects that are received, some hymn consist of the complexion that have three elements in a song. In other words, one verse has the character of the hymn that include the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And two verse is the gospel hymn and the third verse is the gospel song. Or, a hymn begins with the gospel hymn or, the gospel song and is closed by the supplication that seek to God. In this case they can be classified by the centric contents, sometimes they do not fit together for the men apply the different points each other.

"I hear Thy Welcome Voice"(186) has the mixture with the hymn and the gospel hymn. "In the Lifted Rock I'm Resting"(439) has the mixture of the gospel song and the hymn. And "Sweet Hour of Prayer(282) and " I Gave My Life for Thee"(185) are obscure to discern them, and we can observe "church", "mission", the life of the saints", " the sacraments", the feasts and ceremony" etc in them. Generally such songs have no the objects to be accept and the direct expression of the work of the salvation and the providence of God.

However in the broad meaning theses songs are the christian music against to the secular music classified not by the accepted objects, but by the used objects. Of course, according to the accepted objects, they may be divided the hymn, gospel hymn, and also they may be divided again as the used things as the themes and will be classified again in detailed.

In order to praise the hymn to God the first of all he should understand the concept of the praising song. Hat is praising? Praising means total

expression that appear the great character those are, exclamation, proclamation, admitting. This expression is not the simple external showing and activity, because it is the expression of the heart that the full thanksgivings and inspiration flow by recognizing the knowledge of God, his attributes and his works. So parsing should be started by the deep recognition of God. The people think that only song is praising. Song is only a channel of praising we can praise, praising by clapping, confessing and motion because they think that the most channel of praising is to sing a song.

First of all, let's embrace the thanksgivings, confession and the wonderful things that He accomplished in my heart in our heart. Actually if we open the hymn chapter 34 and open your mouth and praise "Come Thou Almighty King" to Him, then we shall get the wonderful grace in our heart. Because more important than the melody and rhythm is the lyric, as we meditate the lyrics we can praise the Lord as we talk to the Lord, then we shall experience wonderful presence of God.

Or, sing a song following the lyric and remind the hand of God and praise the Lord. Try to feel the present holy place that we praise before me to God and open your mouth. In the original language there is the term, Halal. Thus term teaches how to praise God obviously. It means "to shout the voice" not artificially but naturally. Even though we have the best playing if my heart is wandering at the another place, the right praising is not able to be accomplished.

Now, Let us say quietly and truly before God who was saved out of our sins as just followings: "I love God, I appreciate God for your guiding me. And accept my heart."

## II. New Christian Music

### **1) CCM(Christian Contemporary Music)**

In the christian history the worship music illuminated newly have been changed together with church revival movement of the church in the province of God at each age. And also CCM was originated as the gospel song as a branch of the christian music.

In the history of gospel music, externally the age after the middle of 1960 was the time of the contemporary music. However then the name, Jesus Music, Jesus Rock was attached and was used since the middle time of 1970 when the christian musical business and modern music were generalized.

On the end of 1960 the anti cultural movement had made the rapid social change and confusion with the anti warfare movement. Among them the young men were brought up in order to search for the true

teaching of the Christianity. They began to understand that the reformation does not aim to destroy the before generation and escape it, but to astatine to the renewal of their mind. In other words, They themselves understood that they could not achieve the purpose of anti culture movement, most people had found the salvation and its people in them.

They had followed the life style of the primitive church and began with the renewal movement for themselves. On 1967, in the united states of America Jesus movement was budded and from the motive Chuck Smith of the Calvary chapel had the pastoral vision for the youth group.

The Calvary church had understood that the christian faith and music does not connected to the external aspect, but to the condition of the heart and encouraged the lots of musicians to make the musics without relating to the styles.

Finally on 1971 the reverent, Chuck Smith had published the music album that was called for Maratha by the association of music mission. The young Christians who were grown up in the warfare and confused state were able to listen to the musical languages that was new style musics constantly.

Passed the year of 1970, although CCM was fallen down into the wicked condition with refusing the before generation strongly but had been grown up in them gradually.

## 2) CWM(Contemporary Worship Music)

In an aspect, Calvary chapel opened the regular concert for the young people in order to concentrate on their ministry. In the concert several thousand young people participated into and their songs almost include Rock, Folk, Jesus music applied by the country style that were called for “praise song” or, “Scripture Song”.

Of course, even though such songs include the music of the rock style, the most of music was the Scripture song that used the bible verses was accepted by the people without the contrast and it was the simple song that added on 1950 or, 1960 . And, the youth group praised God with the music of their generation style. Their heterogeneous could be changed into the oneness in the Holy Spirit.

As such thing the music that praises God vertically was the song that was used in the movement of “the worship and the praise” since 1980, that was called for “Praise and Worship Song”. The lyric of such songs were the contents that praise God directly which quoted by the Psalms. The contemporary “praise song” was developed and changed into music style by taking the modern styles more.

At an aspect, the old churches tend to treat them as the gospel song, probably because of the generalized character of the lyric without considering the contents of the song. However CWM is different to the music that praises God directly, that is, the gospel song and CCM in the motives that is made of. Therefore we have to understand that the music of “worship and praise” are not the gospel song but the contemporary generalized praising music.

### III. The theological source of worship music



When we remind the church history of the past time the influence of the music that revealed in the worship was very great. To study the process of change of the church music for 20 years gives us to understand the church music and especially the worship music.

However if we treat this area completely it shall be very grand because the changing process of the music was not independent area but with necessary theological background it related to the other several subjects deep complexly. Therefore here we limit to know the important role of three reformers, those are the music views of Luther, Calvin and Zwingli simply.

#### 1) Luther

Martin Luther(1483-1546) was a reformer who was born at Eisleben in Germany. Most people think his as the theologian, philosopher, German literary scholar Germany scholar but few people admit him as the church music scholar. He was learned strongly under his parents who took some passion. Above of all as a he loved the value of the godly life that the prayers possesses and the deep love of the music.

He knew traditional Gregorian Chant deeply and had learnt very much to a singer, a lute player in order to make the music that takes the Polyponic format. He passed over the line of occupying the music in the church and a reformer who used the music very positively to the church. His view of music establish the foundation of Germany protestant church and offered the condition that the art music is able to grow up in the church.

Luther's music was based on "the hymn of congregation" that is, the theological interpreting view that was called for the doctrine of the

priesthood of all Christians, that is, through Christ each layman is able to come to the Lord. At a such meaning the important different point between the roman Catholic music and protestant music was that roman used only the Latin language but protestant music used the their native verbal or, language. , .

In one aspect, the influence of Luther used the Ionian Mode creatively in making coral. Luther had known the music theory of middle time very well and adopted the tradition of Meistersinger and enlarged and created new things as a reformer. At that time Luther contacted to the most rapid music and enlarged the theory of 8 church music lines into the twelve lines and opened the way that the contemporary tonality of the major and the minor can be begotten.

## 2) Calvin

Among the reformers, John Calvin (1509-1564) might have the least skill. Although his school education included the music he could not appear his musical talent. His attitude of the music focused on the God's Word, the Scripture and the Lordship than the musical theory. So his theological view of the music was stood on the fundamental principles. Generally he had taken pessimistic attitude more than the optimistic attitude.

That is, he was worried about that the songs that the man made was very poor and the elements of some cults will be erasable to enter into them. And also he took care that the music is used to enjoy the sensible pleasure in the worship and such possibility in them.

So the various music and using instrument were prohibited in the worship. Especially According to I Corinthians 14:15 "So what shall I do?

I will pray with my spirit, I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.”, he prohibited the using the instruments because it made the heart to shade. And also he applied Galatians 3:23-25 to them.

“Before this faith came, we we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in the charge to lead us to Christ that we we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.”

The reason he quoted these passages was to admit the day of the new testament as not the age of the Law but the age of the faith and for using lots of instruments were revealed in the old testament he connected the instrument, the old testament and the Law together. Therefore he permitted only the Psalms attached melody that was the hymn of congregation as the worship music and made hem to sing them without instruments unison. Here are his view of the music as follows;

- (1) He contrasted to accompany some instruments for the reason that had no the Word of God.
- (2) He permuted not the several music but only the simple music because it may make the word to shade. (Only he permit to use it at the home.)
- (3) He claimed to use only the song that are put in the Scriptures (Psamlns, Canticum) because he accepted these things as the Word of God.
- (4) He concetrated on the owner of the music than moved the heart of the people but took care of that the music were misused for the corruption and self- enjoyment than using them to please God. -

quoted from Yu Sang Yel.