



Living By Faith

“The just shall live by faith.” Rom. 1:17

February 04, 2007

Psallo and Psalms

By Hugo McCord

A sincere brother wonders why do we have the right to say that the terms psallo and psalmos lost all connection to the instrument by the time of the writing of the New Testament. If the early church was in fact using the LXX [Septuagint, Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures made by 72 Jewish translators in Alexandria Egypt in the second or third century B.C.] version of the OT, then they would be very familiar with the book of Psalms. And since that would be true, how could Paul's use of these terms be significantly different?

No one has such a right. The terms psallo and psalmos had not “lost all connection to the instrument by the time of the writing of the New Testament,” nor since. On the contrary, in the very century in which the NT was written, psallo could mean “sing” or “play,” depending on what the writer had in mind. Josephus, in the first century A.D., wrote of some who “psalloned on the harp” (Antiq., 6:8,2), in which example psallo could not mean, “sing.”

I have seen three other examples in print with psallo meaning “play”: (1) in the first century, Strabo (Geography, 1:23; 14:2,26); (2) in the first century, Plutarch (Life of Pericles, 1:5); (3) in the second century, Lucian (The Parasiste 17). A second century inscription is cited by Moulton and Milligan (Vocabulary, psalmos) in which psalmos signifies a song sung with a harp.

Likewise, Paul commanded Christians to do two things: aido and psallo (Ephesians 5:19). If in Paul's time psallo meant “'sing' exclusively, . . . with no reference to instrumental accompaniment (Bauer-Gingrich-Danker, A Greek-English Lexicon to the New Testament, p. 891, 2nd edition, 1979), and aido meant the same thing, then Paul was commanding “singing [aidontes] and singing [psallontes].” Apparently, Paul

was commanding both singing and playing.

But on what was the playing to be done? He did not command it to be done on a harp or psaltery or a timbrel, as the LXX (translated 285-247 B.C.) commanded in Psalm 32:2-3; 67:26; and 70:22, nor as the NASB (translated 1971 A.D.) commanded in Psalm 33:2-3; 68:25; 71:22), but “with your heart” (Ephesians 5:19).

If the instrument specified was a harp or a psaltery or a timbrel, the playing necessarily had to be literal, with each Christian at Ephesus having his own harp or psaltery or timbrel (as the Hebrew and the Greek and the English versions of the Book of Psalms specify). But the instruments specified for the Ephesian Christians were their hearts, on which literal playing was impossible.

Therefore, psallo in Ephesians 5:19 cannot mean “singing,” but only “playing,” and the playing has to be figurative, that is, “plucking the strings of the heart,” “with no reference to instrumental accompaniment” (B-G-D, p. 891, second edition, 1979). The NASB has “making melody with your heart.”

Thus two things are commanded: (1) singing, external, “the fruit of the lips” (Hebrews 13:15) and (2) playing, internal, “with your heart” (Ephesians 5:19). Since the earliest meaning of psallo (strengthened from psao, to touch) is to strike, pull, twang, or pluck, the translation of Ephesians 5:19 becomes: speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing [aido] and plucking [psallo] the strings of your heart to the Lord.

[This article can be researched at thebible.net].

The Balance I Saw in My Father, Gus Nichols

By Flavil Nichols (Part 1)

I realize my father was just a human being, and therefore was subject to human frailties. “There is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not” (Ecclesiastes 7:20), applied to him, as to all other men (cf. 1 Kings 8:46, Romans 3:23). But none of his mistakes were of the grosser sort. Before his funeral I asked my siblings and other relatives: “Do you recall a single word you ever heard Dad say, or a single action on his part which you ever saw, of which you were ashamed—either at the moment, or later?” Not one of the kinsmen could recall such! (We all said the same thing also about Mother)!

“Be reasonable” was one of his rules for his household. He and Mother were parked in front of our house when Mary and I drove home with the baby boy we adopted. They stayed for lunch — and to play with their new grandson! Dad told us that day that this one rule, “Be Reasonable,” will take care of many situations in a family. He said, “If applied equitable, ‘Be reasonable’ will make many other rules unnecessary.” Balance equals being reasonable!

There was not the slightest tinge of jealousy within Gus Nichols’ heart. He was not afraid somebody else would make a better outline, preach a better sermon, write a better book, or do a better job at any task than he could do! He sincerely hoped they would! And he would earnestly pray for them if he found out they were trying.

Balance was exhibited in the scope of Dad’s reading and study. He knew the Bible “from cover to cover,” most of it verbatim. While still farming, he would take to the field his New Testament in his overalls bib pocket. At the end of the row, he would read a verse a time or two, and then recite it aloud as he plowed to the other end. There, while his mule, “Kate,” rested he would verify the accuracy of his memory work, read another verse, and quote that one allowed as he plowed another row. In this way my Father memorized much of the New Testament, verse by verse. [Old Kate heard the word—but it was to no avail “not being mixed with faith in them that heard it” (Hebrews 4:2)!] My father never quit reading, and re-reading, the Bible! His later knowledge of God’s Word was so extensive and so accurate that often he would often ask one of the

children in the back of the seat of the car to select any verse and read it. Then Dad would quote the verse before that one, the one read, and the verse after it—and tell the book, chapter, and verses. But he also read more than the Bible. He read books of sermons, commentaries, and brotherhood journals to keep abreast of current happenings on the religious scene. And he also was well-informed about world affairs, and goings-on in the local community.

In his preaching, Gus Nichols exhibited “Balance.” There was a day when some brethren were “Anti-Bible Class” and “Anti-Women Teachers of Bible Classes for Women and Children,” and “Anti-Individual Containers For Communion.” He preached against these hobbies, and debated with some of these brethren. But it did not become an obsession with him, and he never made a hobby of fighting his hobby! That was balance.

In the late ‘40s and early ‘50s, when a more recent kind of “anti-ism” arose, Gus Nichols helped focus God’s truth on congregational cooperation in evangelism, and the right of the church to support those not Christians. When a liquor referendum was held, he concentrated on that subject. When the feminist movement was in the limelight, he fought against it. When gambling was on the ballot, he fought it. With balance he preached the Gospel as it applies to saints, and to sinners.

Having himself come out of denominational error, he preached against their doctrinal perversions of God’s word. The first poem he ever wrote began:

Give me TRUTH! It will do!
For in John eight, verse thirty-two,
Our Savior said, as you may see,
It is the TRUTH that maketh free.

News & Notes

"I Was Sick And You Visited Me"

- **The Brubaker Family** in the loss of Nina Brubaker this past week.
- **Daniel & Jackie Haynes** expectant parents.
- **Earl & Lavenuia Herridge** continuing to recover from an automobile accident.
- **Blake & Micah Lampson** Blake will be training in Yuma, Arizona.
- **Buford Smith** is staying with his son during his time of therapy.

Others with Continuing Needs

Hagan West Baker, Berylene Beck, Ola Chamberlain, Erik Deeds, Alton Dobbins, Curtis Dudley, Adair Funderburk, Ruby Goff, Dorothy Graves, Melvin Harper, James & Krista Haynes, Addie Long, Sug McCormick, Mildred Moore, Paul Snow, Kindra Thomas, Maidee Wheeler, Charlotte White, Marie White, Ben Whitsett, Jeremiah Willson, Our Elderly & Shut-Ins

Today's Sermon Topics

AM—Enemies On The Inside (Nehemiah 5)
PM— By Their Fruits You Will Know Them
(Matthew 7:15-20)

February Birthdays

Peggy Chism (3)
Kevin Blaine (3)
Lunday Maninger (8)
Patti Bannister (14)
Alton Dobbins (19)
Jonathan Fuller (28)

February Anniversaries

Steven & Mariah Martinez (4)
Lloyd & Zelma Leslie (9)
Charley & Debbie Perkins (11)
Billy & Peggy Chism (26)

Pick-Up Attendance Cards

Jonathan Fuller and Olithia Blaine

Belize Kindergarten

This Sunday is another opportunity to support the Belize Kindergarten program.

First Sunday Luncheon &

After the morning services we will have our monthly luncheon, please stay if you can. Visitors welcome!

Business Meeting

Following the luncheon the elders & deacons will meet for their monthly business meeting.

Redstone Retirement Home

Worship service every Sunday afternoon from 3-4pm.

Monday Night for the Master

Please remember that there is a Monday Night for the Master session, Monday evening beginning approximately 6pm. Please come and help.

Lectureship Books

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested in obtaining a copy of the 2007 Fort Worth Lectureship Book (Isaiah through Daniel) the cost is \$15.00.

E-Bulletin

If you or someone you know would be interested in receiving the 4th & Stewart Bulletin by e-mail please notify Daniel either in person or via e-mail at:
danielhaynes1981@yahoo.com

Gospel Broadcasting Network DVD

Would you like to have a free DVD of approximately 6 hours of programs aired on the Gospel Broadcasting Network? If so, please sign your name on the designated sheet located on the bulletin board.

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| Men to Serve | 02/04/07 - AM | 02/04/07 - PM | 02/11/07 - AM | 02/11/07 - PM |
| Opening Prayer | Billy Chism | Jim Moore | Paul McClung | Steve Dahlberg |
| Wait on Table | Don Smith*, Randy Larue, John Barnum, Ken Makuta | Don Smith | James Thomas*, John Barnum, Gene Bannister, Boyce Newton | James Thomas |
| Closing Prayer | Gene Bannister | Jack Hill | Matt Churchwell | Ben Griffith |
| Scripture Reading | | Hank Wheeler | | James Fuller |
| Wednesday Devo's | Feb.7th Ben Griffith | Feb.14th Jim Moore | Feb.21st Don Smith | Feb.28th Allen Griffith |

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| <p>Elders Gene Bannister..646-4345 Billy Chism.....643-3164* Paul McClung...643-3930 *Coordinating Elder</p> <p>Deacons Mike Bannister..643-5187 Jim Moore.....998-6585 Don Smith.....998-1120 James Thomas..643-2782</p> <p>Gospel Preacher Daniel Haynes..203-0821</p> | <p>Supported Works Belize Church Building Belize Kindergarten Cherokee Children's Home Gospel Broadcasting Network Gospel Chariot Missions Lake Cisco Camp Mission Printing World Bible School</p> |
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| <p>Week of 01/21/07 Bible Class.....56 A.M. Worship.....77 P.M. Worship.....55 Wednesday Eve...35 Offering.....\$1874 Budget.....\$1450</p> | <p>Week of 01/28/07 Bible Class.....56 A.M. Worship....84 P.M. Worship.....NA Wednesday Eve...43 Offering.....\$1349 Budget.....\$1450</p> |
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| Schedule of Services | Contact Information |
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| Sunday a.m. Bible Class 9:45 a.m. Sunday a.m. Worship 10:40 a.m. Sunday p.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Wednesday p.m. Service 7:00 p.m. | Church Office: 325-646-7102 Email: danielhaynes1981@yahoo.com 4thst_churchofchrist@verizon.net |

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