

BELIEVERS INTERNATIONAL

October, 2000

NEWS

“Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”

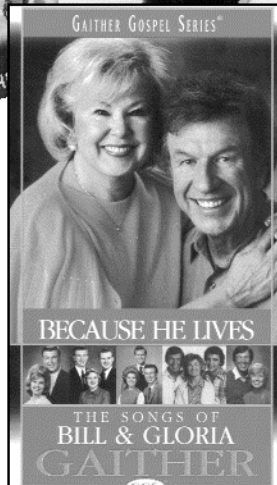
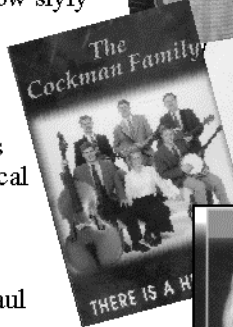
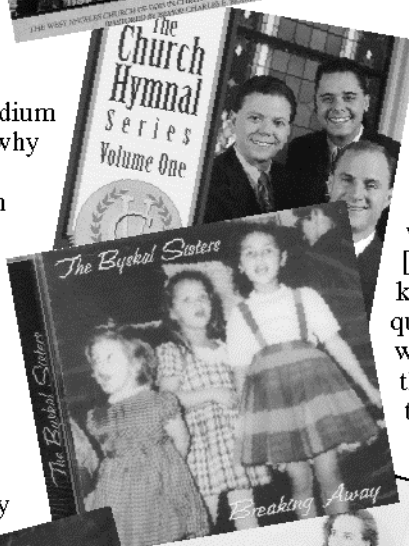
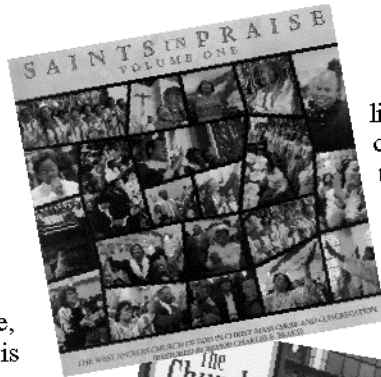
EPHESIANS 5:10-11

Never before in the history of man has music been such an integral part of daily life. For millennia the primary function of music has been for worship, comfort, encouragement, and entertainment. But today, persuasive melodies, rhythms and lyrics also encourage us to purchase goods and services, and support every variety of personal and political agenda. What's more, we are constantly being bombarded with this unsolicited music – in every restaurant, every market, every mall, every office.

Universally, music is the most pervasive medium of communication known to man. And that is why it is vital that we filter this constant flow of 'information' that is capable of influencing both our conscious and sub-conscious beings. We absolutely must be on guard, discerning the ungodly spirits that would try to minister to us through their music.

In the September 1991 issue of *Only Believe* magazine, we printed a lengthy article on the subject of "Music," its history and the countless forms that it has taken through the centuries. Since then, we have wanted to do a follow-up article, especially as we see how slyly the philosophies of the world are being woven into the worship songs. Even the pulpits of Message churches are not immune to the subtle infiltration of the wrong kind of music. Secular love songs with sensual undertones, and other musical presentations that are not fit for the sanctuary are being performed with increasing frequency.

Several months ago, Brother John Paul LaFontaine, the pastor of Literal Life Tabernacle in Toledo, Ohio, called to tell us that his assembly was planning to sponsor a conference in June, and the subject was to be "Music." Since Brother Paul is an accomplished musician and inspired songwriter, we knew that he would be able to bring many insights to the subject from his personal experience. In addition, visiting brothers from Belgium and Germany who had done in-depth studies on rock music would be speaking and showing video to demonstrate the deception that is being propagated in the name of Christian music today.



Although we were unable to attend, we have listened to the tapes that were made at the conference. From those tapes we have compiled the excerpts which you will find on the following pages, and which we believe will be a real blessing and benefit to you and your entire family. If you receive *The Compendium*, you will see that this latest issue (our 60th) is also on the subject of "Music." As you study it, be sure to note how that the "blending" of musical forms that began when Elvis introduced a Pentecostal style to rock 'n' roll music, has now come to full fruition.

After the conference, Brother Paul wrote the following to us: "Bill Gaither [one of the most proficient and well-known Christian songwriters today] was quoted many years ago as saying, 'When we approach music, we have to realize that it is only a vehicle. It is the means to an end. It is amoral.' We learned in our study that this is certainly not true.

A wrong spirit as well as a wrong agenda can be in music, even without lyrics. My message Sunday morning of the conference was to point out the many kinds of music used by Nebuchadnezzar to bring worship to the image. We see this again, as we walk through the music section of the Christian bookstore. There are many choices, but a very, very small percentage is unimpeded by the spirit and agenda of Satan."

Brother Paul also reported that after the conference, many young people and parents alike went home and cleaned out some CD's and cassettes that didn't sound so "Christian" any more! Maybe this short study will inspire you to do the same.



The Devil would like for the people to ignore the subject of music and ignore the kind of music they listen to. It's one of his greatest tools, through which he is able to get his thoughts in, and get his spirits in, and be able to pull a person away from the things of God. The Devil likes to blind the people, and to keep them blind. He likes to be a leader of the blind, and he likes the blindness. But we know that as believers in this hour we have not been called to blindness, but have been called to sight by the eagle eye of a prophet. Our eyes have been anointed with eye salve so that we can see things that the rest of the world cannot see.

Satan has known the power of music ever since he went by the name of Lucifer. He was the great musician, he was the great singer in Heaven, even before he came to earth. He knows about music; he knows about worship. He was next to the throne of God, so if there is anyone who knows about worship and how to worship, Satan knows. He has designed all kinds of music in order to use it to draw the attention of the human beings.

Not only has he studied human beings, but he has studied your life, since you were born. Yes, the great warrior Satan has studied you and has watched you ever since you were sitting on your mother's knee! He has learned your strengths and weaknesses; he has learned your personality and what makes you tick, so that when you get to a certain age of accountability and you start to make your own choices, he already knows all about you. He is going to bring on a lot of things that will affect your weaknesses and pull you down, for that is what a warrior does, he studies your weak spots. He is clever (the Scriptures call him 'subtle').

Music is a tool and a great instrument to be able to draw the people and to be able to open up someone's emotions in order to receive what the Devil wants to place in there – whether it be a demon spirit, or a philosophy. He preaches his gospel and his philosophy through the music that he brings. A lot of times, because you like the music, you will receive the philosophy and not realize it.

We can't just make a list and say "this is good" and "this is bad", but we do want to make you aware that you must be on your toes in this hour, because there is such a drawing power in music. You can't judge music solely because you like it, and it gives you a good feeling. It has to be something much deeper than that.

True music for a believer should feed his soul, and not his flesh. The reason that Israel was sucked in to Balaam's doctrine (we are all the same) was because it was a very fleshly and worldly thing. It was a sensual, sexual form of worship. The worship of Jehovah had nothing to do with flesh, but with the spirit, and with the soul. Sin is appealing, but be careful because it affects the flesh and not the spirit.

How you sing it can destroy the spirit of the song. For example, not long ago popular singer Whitney Houston recorded the song "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know." Her voice and expression was very sensual throughout the song, and at the end she sang these words: "Whenever I'm right, whenever I'm wrong, Jesus loves me." It is appealing to your flesh. Ask yourself this question: Is this music giving glory unto the Lord, or is it glorifying man? Is the resonance of the voice glorifying the singer, or is Jesus being lifted up, even unto the way the music is being played?

Make sure the music you listen to is doctrinally correct. When today's top Christian singers say that they want to touch the world with love, but often the love that they are touching the world with is not God's love. It is a humanistic love, a love rooted in the perversions of Satan. God's love is corrective, bringing you back to the Word, and don't you let any song tell you any different. Don't let some artist that calls himself a Christian interpret the Scriptures for you, and tell you what the love of God is. Let it come from the Message that God has given us. Let this Message interpret what love is. Let the Bible interpret what love is.

Watch how you act after you listen to certain types of music. How does it make you feel? Satan separates happiness from holiness. He says that in order to be happy that you must separate from holiness. But that's a lie. True happiness is in holiness – separated from the world.

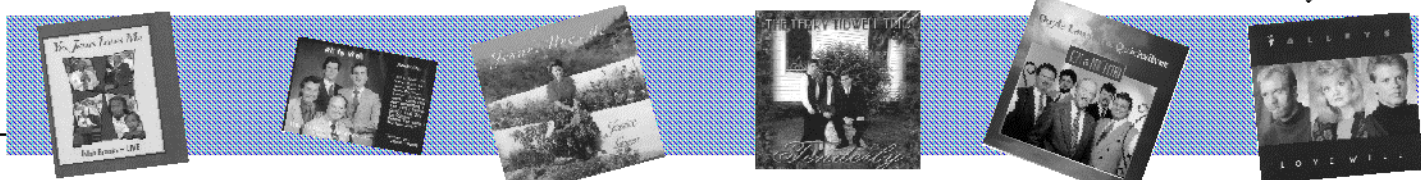
If you try to copy the voice and/or style of another Christian singer, just remember that sometimes they may be copying a worldly singer. Depend on the Holy Spirit for your inspiration.

What is the greatest stumbling block to the Christian, more than anything else in this country – smoking, drinking, drugs, worldly video games, and other destructive things? A singer, singing Christian songs and then singing worldly songs. Remember what Brother Branham said: "The church ought to rise up and not even permit those hymns to be sung by people like that. Taking the talent that God gave them, and influencing, with their lives speaking louder than what their words are."

INFLUENCE 63-1130B

Musicians should be dedicated to the Lord, and it should show by their lifestyle. God did not choose just anyone to be a musician in His temple, only the Levites. The more popular with the world that the artist is, the less likely it is that we should listen to their music!

If Elvis was deluding and polluting the minds of teenagers in 1956, then certainly today, in the harvest of all of this, the overwhelming majority of performing groups has an agenda that is polluting the minds of the young people. It should be a shock to our system (especially to us adults) to see how far that they



have gone, to where they have blended it together so much that you can no longer tell the difference between 'Christian' or the world. Elvis planted the seed, and now we are living in the harvest of that seed that was planted.

Brother Branham said: Back there in the early ages, a Christian could, for his profession of belonging to Christ, be beheaded for it. He could be killed and put out of his misery, and go to meet God quickly. But now, the enemy has come in the name of the church, and it is so deceiving. This is a great age of deception."

HOW CAN I OVERCOME 63-0825M

We know that the denominations are going back to the world, and when they do, where is their music headed? Right back to the world! We sing many of Bill Gaither's early songs in our assemblies – "He Touched Me," "Jesus, There's Something About That Name," and many more. But one of the Gaither's latest videos, which was produced in Memphis, Tennessee, ended with a tribute being paid to Elvis Presley!

Jesus said "If ye were of the world, the world would love His own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." JOHN 15:19 The world hates what the true Christian believes! But today, we have a 'cool Jesus' that is accepted everywhere. Christianity has been blended to be acceptable, until it is no different in spirit than the world. Trying to find something in common with the world, in their own imagination, people have imagined their own Jesus, other than the Jesus of the Scripture – a 'new and improved' Jesus. In Galatians 1:7, Paul speaks of those who would "pervert the gospel of Christ" – not worldly from its inception, but perverted. Not being truly what He is, but creating another Jesus that is 'up to date.' Today, music is calling the people to the worship of this new Jesus. **WE MUST REALIZE THAT THIS IS THE PREVALENT PHILOSOPHY IN CHRISTIAN MUSIC TODAY!**

In Daniel, chapter three, we learn that Nebuchadnezzar had music of all kinds, but he also had an agenda, a motive. He was using the music to bring worship to the image that he had prepared. He had an image there, and they were to worship another god, other than the true God.

In this hour it is not worship to a rock image like it was in Nebuchadnezzar's day. Remember, Nebuchadnezzar wanted to call all the nations and languages, and there was a rock image that he had built. But the worship today is not to be to an image of something in stone, but the worship of the creeds and ideas of the church, that end up bringing worship to Satan. Through that image of the beast, through that church system and their new 'Jesus' that they have created for themselves, they worship Satan himself, which was his original goal: "I want to be worshipped like God."

Rock 'n' roll, and the things that stem from it, were not just another step in the evolution of music. It was something else altogether. It was designed specifically by Satan, and he had something in his mind when he designed it. He wanted to bring the people in this generation to a certain thing. Satan has to gather his people (a great calling, a great worship unto the image, unto the beast). Satan has an image that he creates in the last days, and here in his last ride – the pale horse rider – he gathers his delegates together for the final battle of Armageddon and to bring worship to the image of the beast. Worship to a church system to gather them to Armageddon.

How is Satan going to gather the people, even those people who are living in little huts, way out in the middle of nowhere that do not have much contact with others? He must gather as many delegates as he can, so resident within the spirit of the music he propagates is an agenda to call the people through the music, and gather them for the great battle of Armageddon.

You, with your own eyes and ears, would never have been able to pick up on a spirit that's going to gather the whole world to the worship of the image of the beast. You would have never caught that, but an 'eagle eye' caught it, and said that it's right there in the music! *"Way back in the jungles of Africa, our safari hunters, they had to take high-powered radios to hear Elvis Presley, Pat Boone, and them guys with that rock 'n' roll and twist... See, it's a spirit. And the spirit is not only in America. It has spread itself out over the world, to bring them to the battle of Armageddon."*

ASHAMED OF HIM 65-0711

The majority of Christian music today, is not just the music itself, but it has an agenda behind it.

We must have a spiritual eye. It has a philosophy behind it. It is presenting ideas of Christ that many times are not true ideas of Christ. It's their interpretation of Christ. It will cause you to start marching in another army, to another beat, besides the truth of Christ's Word. Remember, the true army of God, in the vision that was given to Brother Branham, was marching and singing "Onward Christian Soldiers."

You young people today are in a spiritual Babylon, and you feel the pressure every day. You are surrounded by ideas that are so contrary to the Message. It's hard, because we believe things from the Scriptures that seem to be so strange and odd to the rest of the world. Well, so did Daniel, and so did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The things they believed and learned from the prophet were so contrary to what was around them. But they caught the meaning behind the music, and they said, "We will not bow to your music. We will not receive your music, because



...continued.

there is an agenda behind it.” From the description in the Scriptures, the music must have been very appealing, and there was a wide variety of instruments that were played (Daniel 3). But they knew it was wrong, because of what it was causing them to worship. There wasn’t anything wrong with the instruments, but the agenda and the spirit of it was all wrong. They knew there was good music that had a right motive and right Spirit behind it. But this particular music was wrong.

They stood on their convictions, and God was with them and proved them to be right.

And that is our message for you today. Stand for your convictions. Stand for what this Message stands for. Stand for your beliefs, and God will honor you.

The article “Music, the Sound and the Unsound” which was first published in *Only Believe* magazine can be read in its entirety on our web site at www.onlybelieve.com.

We also have a limited number of printed booklets containing the article. You may obtain one by writing or calling our office at (423)474-6565.

Octojub



Brother Murillo and Brother Felipe (right) mix concrete for the footings.(inset) The church in '88

This little whitewashed church surrounded by jungle may look familiar to you. It was featured in one of the first issues of *Only Believe* magazine (December 1988) in an article called “Go Tell It On The Mountain.” In a later issue, we reported that believers had sponsored the installation of a badly-needed source of clean water for the saints of Octojub, who are Huasteco Indians.

During the past 12 years, we have stayed in touch with the saints that live in this remote and mountainous region of Mexico. We have helped them with donations of food and clothing, and when it was needed, such as when the coffee crops have been destroyed by storms, we have provided financial assistance as well.

The congregation has nearly doubled in size since our visit. At the same time, the damp climate has taken a toll on the structure of their small sanctuary. The walls are crumbling away, and the roof can no longer keep out the rain. After one of his regular visits to the area, Brother Murillo told us of the

condition of the building, and asked if we could help with the repairs, which we immediately agreed to do.

We thank the Lord that today, through the support of the believers, the Huastecos are now in the process of building a new church on the same site.

As these photos show, in a method that is typical of the way buildings are often erected in Mexico, new walls are being built that will totally enclose the old structure. Only when the new is completed, will the old be torn down. That way they will not have to go without having a place to worship during the construction process.

You may read the entire story of our visit with the Huastecos of Octojub on our Web site at www.onlybelieve.com



The new church will be built around the old, crumbling church, and will be exactly twice the size.

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