

There should likewise be appropriateness of expression. Lack of this will greatly mar the effect which the truth is designed to produce. Great care should be taken in selecting the tune. One shou'd be chosen which is fitted to bring out the meaning of or to interpret the psalm or hymn which is to be sung. In making a selection the question which should be asked is, what tune will best enable us to interpret—to sing out—the meaning, beauty, and power of the truth which is contained in the psalm or hymn? The selection having been made, the tune is to be used for this purpose and for this only.

The foregoing consideration determines the relation which the tune and the truth embodied in the words sustain to each other. The tune is to be subordinate and subservient to the truth. This order is often reversed, with many the question being, what tune shall we sing? whilst they are altogether indifferent to the truth which is to be sung, and are anxious only to do what they call justice to the tune, let the truth suffer as it may. But this is to exalt the servant into the master's place, and make that dominant which should be subordinate. And the conviction of the writer is, that it is just at this point that a great weakness exists in the service of praise in the sanctuary. There is too much concern with tunes as tunes, rather than as an aid to worship. They should be in God's house as servants, and should be regarded as the mere handmaids of devotion, by whose aid the riches and power of Divine truth are to be drawn forth and expressed.

Again the service of song in the sanctuary should be rendered sympathetically. The affections are to be engaged in this part of worship, as in all other parts. There should be sympathy with God, the object of worship, with the truths which is being sung, and with the assembled worshippers. This three-fold sympathy would give a reality, expressiveness, and power to the singing which would be felt by everyone. Songs of gladness would be sung with gladness, and songs of tenderness with tears in the eyes and in the voice, and as a result the blessing of God might be confidently looked for in quickening the dead, winning souls for Christ, and comforting believers.

A word or two must suffice as to the means by which the efficiency of the service of song may be promoted. Faithful and persistent