



FAIRHAVEN BOOK REVIEW

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By Steve Damron

"THE LORD'S SONG"

BY ERICH P. MCCANDLESS

INTRODUCTION

This book was written in 2014 to help determine what identifies music as Christian. The author addresses many different elements of music such as beat, rhythm, and style. He also discusses instruments and their use in church music. The book has many well researched thoughts and is thorough in discussing the many aspects of music in relation to the church service.

OVERVIEW

The author starts the discussion by showing that music is a very integral part of the human makeup. He helps to establish this by using outside sources such as Giovanni Mirandola who said, "Music produces like effects on the mind as good medicine on the body." This is helpful in showing that music is not "amoral" as many claim, but has a purpose. For this reason, we need to be sure that we are finding God's purpose in music. From Biblical references, the author also proposes that good, godly music will be both loud and skillfully played. The author seems to love the "loud" part to the extreme, but the idea is that godly music in the church should not be sensual or provocative. This is the tendency of CCM and is contrary to what we find in Scripture.

SUMMARY & ASSESSMENT

The author also has some very good chapters on the instruments discussed in the Bible, the use of music as a spiritual gift, and the ministry of the song leader. The chapter on the song leader is very instructive. The author uses many sources to show how important music is to public spirit. He then turns to I Chronicles 15 and the ministry of Chenaniah. The challenge to the song leader is if "interested in being used in the ministry of music they would do well to better themselves musically." Many good helps are given for the man to be a song leader. The author uses not just religious sources which would be very adequate, but has a good mix of outside sources such as studies from universities or scientific institutions that help validate the power of music on the emotional state of man.

CONCLUSION

Overall, this book is a very good read. There are some areas that one may have some variance in preference such as the instruments that are to be used in services. The author does not like the use of children much in the singing of specials and really likes the music being loud. However, these are items within a church that the pastors and leadership work on and decide for their local congregation. There are some technical areas that may require some extra thinking so be sure to have your "thinking cap" on when you are reading the book.

RESOURCES

You can purchase the book at the following link:
<https://bookstore.fairhavenbaptist.org/product/the-lords-song/>