

GOD IS GOOD

Amos 5:23 ... "Take away from me the noise of your songs..."

Sometimes we can hear a word or a phrase so often, that we begin to ignore it. We might even become irritated when certain words are over-used. In the 50s a popular word was "cool" and I still find myself saying it on occasion. I got so sick of hearing the word "awesome" in the 90s, that it began to annoy me. Several years ago, a popular worship leader coined the phrase "God is good all the time" and the audience would respond "all the time God is good." It seems that every church worship leader around the world then felt obligated to recite that phrase every Sunday. I still hear it quite often.

While it is absolutely true that "God is good," if those words just become a mantra or something we are expected to say, they can become nearly meaningless. If you say anything to or about God just of habit or because it's part of your church's rituals, those words can lose their meaning and be noise from your lips. The same thing can happen when we sing songs in church and neglect to reflect on the words and the meaning of those words. The things we say or sing to the Lord because the words and phrases are popular, can become the noise referred to in today's verse.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:1 that "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal." Our purpose in speaking or singing to God, must be to express our heartfelt love, praise and worship. But if it becomes a competition to see who can pray the longest or sing the loudest, our efforts might be heard by God as noise.

God is good. Not because he answers your prayers, or provides you with food and shelter, or because he is preparing a place for you in Heaven. Those are nice rewards and fringe benefits of having a loving Heavenly Father. The real reason that God is good, is because of his mercy toward you; because he saved you when you did not deserve it; because he loves you when you are unlovable; because he counted you as a person of value when you felt you were worthless. I challenge you to consider carefully the things you say to and about the Lord; make sure they are from your heart, truthful, and genuine. If it is your practice to just copy what others do, even if they sound spiritual, the things you say and sing could be just noise that is not appreciated by God.

Copyright © 2017 Datu Wali Mission Foundation