The Importance of singing Hymns
By sam

The church has always emphasize the importance of singing hymns in to the church members, young and old alike. We have heard a lot about it from the ministers as well as the hymnal leaders and choirmaster, but why, why do we sing hymns in church? Why do we form choirs? Why do we teach the small children hymns during REU? Why do we have hymnal sessions teaching hymns to the church members every Saturdays?

There are some would say that singing hymns would provide the church members an opportunity to become actively involved. Others might wonder that it is an activity that clears away social and community differences and creates a sense of unity and harmony. Both of these statements hold true to some extent, but the importance of hymns singing are much more than that.

Let us learn what Apostle Paul had to say: - Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Here Apostle Paul mentioned a few things:
-> Teaching and admonishing/reprove the word of Christ with one another richly in wisdom through psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
-> Singing them gracefully in our hearts to the Lord.

Hymns' singing is for teaching and admonish. When we look at our hymn book, we would see each and every hymn is related to at least one verse in the Bible, i.e. every hymn is related to the words of Christ. As we know, Bible teaches us how to be good stewards to our Master, our Lord Jesus Christ and also acts as a mirror, some sort of measurement of our faith and our actions. Hence, when we sing hymns, we are actually constantly reminding ourselves of God's teachings and to know whether we have been walking on the correct path that God wants us to tread. Just like a sermon accompanying with music.

It is found that humans can only absorbed 20% of what they hear from sermons. By comparing with a combination of the words and melody, hymns' singing is a stronger edifying tool. Hymns are repeated frequently, which is an important factor of memorization, adding together the music and rhymed verses, making the hymns much more digestible and stick to the mind longer.

Hymns' singing is an act of Thanksgiving to God. The book of Psalms filled with thanksgiving. See: - Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 75:1 To the chief Musician, Al-taschith, A Psalm or Song of Asaph. Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.
Psalm 92:1 A Psalm or Song for the sabbath day. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.

What is a hymn?
It is singing to the praises and glorifying God. If you praise God and glorify Him and do not sing, you utter no hymn. If you praise and glorify anything, which does not pertain to the praise and the glory of God -- though in singing you praise and glorify, you utter no hymn. A hymn contains these three things: song, praises and glorify, and that of God. Hence, Praising and glorifying God in a song is called a hymn.

Hymns' singing is a representative of how your heart feels: - Happiness, Sorrow, Thankful, Spiritual Battle, etc.

Refer back to Col 3:16
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

We are encouraged to sing with our hearts, not just our mouths and voice. God does not take into the importance of whether we've beautiful voice or sing in-tune to the music. What's more important to Him is how we sing hymns, is it from our hearts? Even though we have beautiful voice and sing great but if the heart is not in it, we are only making noises.

We should sing as audible as we can. Psalm 33:3 Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.

Psalm 66:1 To the chief Musician, A Song or Psalm. Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:

In Psalm 33:3, noise here means audible and in Psa 66:1 it means hymn

What's the difference between the noise mentioned in Psalm 33:3 and Amos 5:23? Sing with our hearts to please God.

Amos 5:23
Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

Eph 5:19
Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Hallelujah! God do listen to our hymns singing!
Let us follow what Apostle Paul had taught us in Colossian 3:16 and never underestimate the importance of hymns singing i.e. For teaching & admonishing and thanksgiving to God, and never forgets... God hears our hymns singing from our hearts.