

Prophesy Again Ministries
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The Counterfeit Gospel Music

Gospel music is one of the most sensitive subjects in the religious world. People have so many erroneous ideas of the music to be used in worship services. Many people grew up seeing and hearing a certain type of music in their worship services and they have participated in it; and even taught the same style of worship to others. Now, it is time for us to examine the types of music that we use in our worship services, to see if they are accepted of God. Spiritual music is connected to worship and it is used to enrich our worship of Jesus, our creator. God is particular when it comes to the type of music that we use to worship Him; therefore He has given us the principles in His word to know the truth. We must study the scriptures to find out God's ideal and not depend upon our own opinions and false traditions or else we will make serious mistakes. Satan knows the type of music that God requires of us to conduct in our worship services and our homes; he was the director of the angelic choir in heaven (read Ezekiel 28:13-18). Satan wants to receive worship and he will use any and every means to obtain it (read Isaiah 14:12-14). Satan is using music today as one of his mediums to obtain worship. How would you feel if you discovered that all your life the music that you have been using to worship God was all inspired by Satan? Let us study to show ourselves approved of God. Let us not use the excuse that culture determines the type of music that we use to worship God. I know that there will always be controversy concerning the music that is used in the worship services, but we must find the proper music that is fit for worship and use it. Even when we conduct the proper music in our worship services, Satan will still inspire others to fight against it. Nevertheless, let us strive to please God and not man. Let us lift up true worship in God's church, for His sake, the sake of our children, and the sincere believers. In this lesson we will examine God's word and history to find out the right type of music that we should listen to and use in our homes and worship services.

Let us begin to look at the history of music, the true way to worship God from the Bible. All through the Bible, the prophets of God always tried to lead the people back to the Law, the Testimonies of His Spirit, and their sacred history. The reason for this was that the apostate Israelites could only recognize how far they had drifted from God's ideal of worship by looking at the Law, the Testimonies, and their sacred history. It has been Satan's plan to lead the Christian churches from the true understanding of the Law, the Testimonies, and the history of God's true church throughout the ages. Notice these examples: Moses and Joshua's dying words to the Israelites were admonitions for them to remember the Law, the Testimonies, and their history; and Jesus answered many questions by pointing His inquisitors to the Law, the Prophets and their history. Read Deuteronomy 8:2; Joshua 1:7, 8; Joshua 23:6; Joshua 24:1-14; Luke 24:25-27; Luke 10:25, 26. Today the only way to lead professed Christians back to the right types of music and worship styles is by directing their minds to the Law, the Testimony, and sacred history. We will now examine some Bible principles concerning music and the true worship of God.

THE PURPOSE OF MUSIC

Music should be a method of aiding us not only to know the truth but also to remember the truth of God, according to Colossians 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.” Also see Ephesians 5:19 to find this same principle. Here the Bible points us to the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs as the songs to choose our selection of music. Improper music and improper worship derive from choosing songs from any other source. Please do not say that hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs are boring and outdated; you must recognize the real purpose for them. They are to fit you to be able to give the reasons of your faith; they are to fit you to be prepared physically, mentally, and spiritually for these last days, and for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ; therefore you must acquaint yourselves with God’s true types of music. You can purchase psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs on tapes and CDs by contacting some of your local Christian book stores. However, you will have to diligently search for these spiritual songs, like miners would search for hidden treasures, because Satan does not want us to receive these types of music.

THE BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF GOSPEL MUSIC

In Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 God informs us of the kinds of music we should render to Him: psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Psalms are passages of Scripture, especially from the book of Psalms, which are set to simple melodies. Examples are “Except the Lord Build the House” (Psalm 127), “He That Dwelleth in the Secret Place” (Psalm 91), “The Lord is My Light and My Salvation”(Psalm 27), and “The Lord is My Shepherd” (Psalm 23), etc. Hymns are praises to God in which we extol His character, love, greatness, majesty, might, power, and glory. They are definitely God-centered. Consider as examples “O Worship the Lord,” “There’s No Other Name Like Jesus,” and “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.” Spiritual songs are musical testimonies of the interaction of Jesus Christ upon the heart and life of the believer. “He Leadeth Me,” “Near to the Heart of God,” “A Shelter in the Time of Storm” are examples. Because these songs describe a relationship between a person and Jesus Christ, they are correctly referred to as *gospel songs*. However, many people tend not to regard them as gospel songs, because rhythm is not their chief characteristic. Here people err, because it is the poem, the message of the song, and not the music that qualifies a song as gospel music. Satan always has a counterfeit to God’s plans. The word gospel means the good news of salvation; the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14 are the everlasting gospel; therefore our songs should reflect the truths contained in these messages and we must demonstrate them in our daily lives for they are essential for our salvation. God has given to us gospel songs that we are to sing, which come from the hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs. However, Satan has blended God’s words with worldliness to bring about his “gospel songs,” just as he blended God’s truth with his lies in the Garden of Eden, in Genesis chapter three, to deceive Eve. Let us look at the history and progress of what the world and many church members call *gospel music*; you will see that it is Satan’s perversion of God’s gospel music. We will also see that this counterfeit gospel music is a deception from Satan to nullify the truth of Jesus Christ. This is Satan’s aim to make of none effect the truth of Jesus by giving the people a false musical excitement.

THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL MUSIC

Phil Petrie is a proponent of what the world calls gospel music. He wrote this article entitled “The History of Gospel Music.”¹ “Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993, composer of such standards as ‘There Will Be Peace in the Valley’), is considered by many

¹ <http://afgen.com/gospel1.html>.

gospel devotees to be the 'Father of Gospel Music.' The son of a minister, Dorsey was a consummate musician and as a young man accompanied some of the most famous blues singers of all time-specifically, Bessie Smith (1894-1937) and Ma Rainey (1886-1939). He also arranged and composed blues tunes. His penchant for bouncy tunes and bawdy lyrics did not keep him from attending the annual meetings of the National Baptist Convention, though. And it was at one of these meetings in Philadelphia that Dorsey first heard the compositions of Charles A. Tindley (1851-1933, composer of 'We'll Understand It Better By and By' and 'Leave It There' among others).

THE COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL MUSIC WAS CALLED THE DEVIL'S MUSIC

In his essay, 'Rock, Church, Rock,' Arna Bontemps says that it was then that Dorsey began to write religious music, abandoning his brash lyrics *but not the jazz rhythms and blues flavor and rhythmic style* so akin to Tindley's own. Naturally, the 'old guard' conservatives considered this blending of the sacred (spirituals and hymns) and the secular (blues and jazz) as 'the devil's music' and shunned it. *By its actions, the church declared Dorsey's brand of gospel music unworthy of a hearing within the sanctuaries of the day, a story quite similarly echoed by churches responding to the rock 'n' roll Jesus Movement that swept the country in the early '70s.*" Let us stop here for a moment.

According to this factual history of "gospel music," every church in the 1930's to the 1970's considered the blending of spiritual words with worldly rhythms as Satan's music. Yet people today, some who are ignorant of this history, are blending spiritual words with rhythm and blues, jazz, country western, rock and roll, reggae, rap, and hip-hop music, etc. And the sad thing is that these people excuse this blending of the sacred with the secular as identifying with their culture. Culture has nothing to do with this blend; it is Satan's attack on God's word and His people to make no distinction between the sacred and the secular; therefore his deceptions transcend culture. Satan wants to keep God's people in a state where they think that they are praising God; and at the same time they do not have to deny the lust of the flesh-the music of the world. In other words, Satan wants them to think that they can have the vibe and style of the world and still have God simultaneously. Many people will gladly join the churches because they can still sing and swing to the secular rhythms of the world. But the Bible says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," 2Corinthians 5:17. If we meditate on this text we will see that it is a deception for a person to profess to be baptized in the truth and yet continue to mix the worldly, secular, and sinful rhythms with Bible words. Nowadays, the musical words in these secular gospel songs are no longer inspired Bible words, but they are sensual and devilish, with a little Jesus here and there in the verses. This is a clear sign that neither the singer nor the listener are converted who blend or advocate the blending of Jesus' words with Satan's words and pagan rhythms. We need to understand the history of these secular gospel songs that many people have embraced and realize that they are Satanic, and we must leave them alone.

A BRIEF TESTIMONY OF "THE FATHER OF GOSPEL MUSIC"

Let us continue to read the history of the rise and progress of the counterfeit gospel music: "A 1994 Score magazine article titled 'The Father of Gospel Music' quoted Dorsey as saying, 'When I realized how hard some folks were fighting the gospel idea, I was determined to carry the banner.' Carry it he did. 'I borrowed five dollars and sent out 500 copies of my song, 'If You See My Savior,' to churches throughout the country.... It was three years before I

got a single order. I felt like going back to the blues.” Now, notice how Satan rose up other secular artists to endorse Thomas Dorsey’s blend of the sacred with the secular to deceive the whole world concerning God’s proper music and true worship.

THE DEVIL’S MUSIC ENTERED THE CHURCHES

“With pioneer singers such as Sallie Martin (1896-1988) and Mother Willie Mae Ford Smith (1904-94) propagating his music, he [Thomas Dorsey] stayed the course long enough to write over 800 songs and hear his music ascend from the first row pews to the choir stand, *where it previously had been banned*. Other composers, such as Lucy Campbell (‘Something Within’) and Dr. Herbert Brewster (‘Surely God is Able’), picked up the torch and the way was lit for another generation to take control. To insure this, Dorsey founded The National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses in 1932, an organization still in existence today. Dorsey was a planter. The fruits of that harvest were the exceptional singers who spread gospel around the country and indeed the world in the years that followed--Mahalia Jackson, and James Cleveland are but a few.” We just read that the world and the churches now accepted this Satanic music, a blend of the sacred with the divine, when Mahalia Jackson, Clara Ward, James Cleveland and others began to hypnotize them with their “dynamic voices and charismatic styles.” Here is a brief history of Jackson and Ward.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MAHALIA JACKSON

“Mahalia Jackson (1911-1972) had been, in the language of today's youth, ‘all that’ in gospel long before she signed a lucrative contract with Columbia Records in the 1950s [the church mingled with the world]. Her star continued to rise, landing her on the ‘Ed Sullivan Show’ and providing the opportunity for her to sing just before Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. delivered his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech (Interestingly enough, she sang Dorsey's ‘Take My Hand, Precious Lord’ at King's funeral in 1968). Her rich alto voice affected all those who heard it and several of today's singers either wanted to sing like her or with her.

LITTLE RICHARD AND ARETHA FRANKLIN WERE DECEIVED BY SATAN

Clara Ward (1924-1973) and the Ward Singers, on the other hand, took the opportunity, in Clara's words ‘to take God's words to His people wherever they were--even in night clubs.’ Ward had a direct effect on the career of gospel great Marion Williams [Williams sang with the Ward Singers] and influenced both Little Richard and Aretha Franklin, who noted Ward as her idol.”

DEFINITION OF DAVID’S DANCE

Yes friends, so-called gospel artists blended the sacred with night club music and styles. God has commissioned us to carry the true gospel into the world, into the homes, into the schools, into the neighborhoods, and into the churches, but not into night clubs and other forbidden places where drinking, riotous behavior, and reveling are taking place. This quotation is relevant to state at this point in our study: “David's dancing in reverent joy before God has been cited by pleasure lovers in justification of *the fashionable modern dance*, but there is no ground for such an argument. In our day dancing is associated with folly and midnight reveling. Health and morals are sacrificed to pleasure. *By the frequenters of the*

*ballroom [night clubs or dance halls] God is not an object of thought and reverence; prayer or the song of praise would be felt to be out of place in their assemblies,”*²

The era of the quartets was next. “The quartets limelight ran in tandem with those golden gospel voices—from the late 1920s through the 1940s, the gospel quartet reigned supreme in gospel music. In fact, it was these vocal groups that most affected *American pop culture*. One of the mainstays of the quartets was The Swan Silvertones led by Claude Jeter. Jeter's innovative style of using falsetto became the industry standard. Not to be outdone, The Sensational Nightingales' Rev. Julius Cheeks delved into flamboyance. He left the stage, walked the floor and ‘worked’ the audience, keeping its spirit high. *Had he been on the secular side, one suspects he would have been considered a sex symbol.*” Notice some of the modern secular gospel artists doing the same thing, working the audience, like Herodias’ daughter danced sensually before Herod the King and his assemblies, deceiving them into beheading God’s prophet, John the Baptist (read Mark 6:21-27).

TAKE 6, BEBE AND CECE WINANS WERE DECEIVED BY SATAN

“The gospel quartets' influence wasn't confined to just those names either as many of the rhythm and blues musicians of the '60s and '70s first had their imaginations sparked by the quartets. This short list of singers with their gospel affiliation in parentheses prove the point: Ashford and Simpson (The Followers), Chuck Jackson (Raspberry Singers), Wilson Pickett (Violinaires), Johnny Taylor (The Highway QCs). Even the current pop/R&B group Jodeci was once a gospel group called Little Cedric Haley and the Haley Singers! The next era brought the choirs. In gospel music the mass choirs and choruses replaced the quartets in terms of overall popularity. From its early roots through many legends along the route to the modern sounds finding a renewed popularity all their own today, it seems evident that gospel music is here to stay. Modern music lovers, especially the younger audiences, require more ‘*bounce and groove*’ it seems, and many of them are moved by urban contemporary sounds as supplied by BeBe and CeCe Winans and Take 6 [a S.D.A. group]; some others, meanwhile, *stomp to hip-hop.*” Notice the same things are happening today in the churches, what blasphemy! Will Jesus accept this kind of worldly music?

KIRK FRANKLIN, YOLANDA ADAMS AND OTHERS ARE ALSO DECEIVED BY SATAN

“From the smooth sounds of Sam Cooke to the dancing, acrobatic vocals of Kirk Franklin, gospel music does more than just sound sweet--it literally moves its listeners. Whether it's swaying with the choirs or tappin' along with the quartets or simply raising hands to the rhythm of soul-stirring crooners, gospel is one genre of music that needs to be both seen and heard. *Once narrowly defined as religious*, gospel has transcended those limits to become a profound force in American music and popular culture...

Gospel music is coming to the mainstream,’ says gospel diva Yolanda Adams. ‘*Singers are coming out of the church* and introducing the gospel style to a mainstream audience.’³ According to those two statements the so-called gospel music is not religious music and it causes people to leave the church and Christianity.

² [Patriarch and Prophets, 707](#)

³ <http://afgen.com/gospel1.html>

WHAT SONGS WAS JESUS SINGING DURING THE CLOSE OF HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY?

Jesus sang a hymn before He went into Gethsemane so that He would be fully fitted to be our sacrifice on the cross (see Matthew 26:30). What if Jesus was singing and dancing, bouncing and grooving, to a secular song or some of these worldly gospel songs that people sing and dance to today? Do you think He would have been fitted mentally, physically, and spiritually to face the crisis hour? No. In the marginal reference of Matthew 26:30 it says that Jesus sang Psalms 113-118. This does not mean that we are only to sing those Psalms, but we can sing other ones as well. These Psalms were not only talking about God's love, but also about the sacred history of Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan and from sin to righteousness; the Psalms speak about thanksgiving to God for deliverance over pride and victory over Satan, and Satan's human agents. These words were in Jesus' mind as He approached His crucifixion. We are near, very near to the close of our human probation; how can we fill our minds and the minds of our children with songs that do not teach us the truth? We must fill our minds with songs that will prepare us to give a reason for the hope that is within us with meekness and fear.

SING ONLY SONGS THAT WILL PREPARE YOU FOR THESE LAST DAYS

Here are four quotations to add to the above point that we are to sing only those songs that are to prepare and empower us to approach the end times: *"This was the wisdom of Moses to present the truth to them in song, that in strains of melody they should become familiar with them, and be impressed upon the minds of the whole nation, young and old. It was important for the children to learn the song; for this would speak to them, to warn, to restrain, to reprove, and encourage. It was a continual sermon."*⁴ On the contrary, the secular gospel music of today are not sermonic in their nature, they are not used to instruct people in the ways of righteousness, they are demonic and hypnotic.

*"If it was essential for Moses to embody the commandments in sacred song, so that as they marched in the wilderness the children could learn to sing the law verse by verse, how essential it is at this time to teach our children God's Word! Let us . . . do everything in our power to make music in our homes, that God may come in."*⁵

*"Music in the Schools of the Prophets—The chief subjects of study in these schools were the law of God, with the instruction given to Moses, sacred history, sacred music, and poetry. . . . Sanctified intellect brought forth from the treasure house of God things new and old, and the Spirit of God was manifested in prophecy and sacred song.--These schools proved to be one of the means most effective in promoting that righteousness which 'exalteth a nation,' Proverbs 14:34. In no small degree they aided in laying the foundation of that marvelous prosperity which distinguished the reigns of David and Solomon."*⁶

"Sacred Melody for Students--The art of sacred melody was diligently cultivated. No frivolous waltz was heard, nor flippant song that should extol man and divert the attention from God; but sacred, solemn psalms of praise to the Creator, exalting His name and recounting His wondrous works. Thus music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the

⁴ Evangelism, 496

⁵ Evangelism, 499

⁶ Education, 47

thoughts to that which was pure and noble and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God.”⁷

Have we drifted from the foundation of the Bible by conducting and playing secular music in our homes, automobiles, classrooms, as well as our school and church choirs? If we have, we must get back to the foundation quickly, because the quote says: “These schools proved to be *one of the means most effective in promoting that righteousness* which ‘exalteth a nation,’ Proverbs 14:34. In no small degree they aided *in laying the foundation* of that marvelous prosperity which distinguished the reigns of David and Solomon.”

BRIEF HISTORY OF HOW SATAN ATTACKED THE CHURCHES IN THE LATE 1800’S

Satan brought into Christian churches the “Holy Flesh Movement” in 1900. Read that entire history in Selected Messages, Book. 2, pages 25-39. The majority of Christians have never heard of this “Holy Flesh Movement.” Why is it important to look at this history? It is important because Satan is using the same false principles to captivate many of God’s people today. These are some of the experiences that took place in the “Holy Flesh Movement.”

*“In 1843 and 1844 we were called to meet just such fanaticism. Men would say, I have the Holy Spirit of God, and they would come into the meeting and roll just like a hoop; and because some would not receive this as evidence of the working of the Spirit of God, they were looked upon as wicked people... They claimed to heal the sick and to work miracles.”*⁸ Get this point and don’t miss it:

Satan brought in fanaticism (the “Holy Flesh Movement”) around the time of 1843 and 1844. His purpose was to silence the first and second angels’ messages, and the message of the midnight cry which were all being preached at this time. (Read Matthew 25: 1-13 and Revelation 14) These messages were to prepare the people for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ; and to give them the knowledge that Jesus, our High Priest was about to move to the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place to begin the last phase of His ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary, which was the beginning of the world-wide investigative judgment. But the majority of the people who professed to love Jesus rejected these messages of preparation. Satan gave these people an excitement to make them think that God was with them; Satan brought in false teachers to preach smooth sermons that did not rebuke sins; sermons that did not point to the present truth of the opening of the investigative judgment with instructions of how to pass the judgment. Thus the people did not feel the need of the true messages; they were satisfied with their emotional excitement that they were experiencing. Make no mistake about this, Satan allowed people to be won to that false movement to deceive them into thinking that the Holy Spirit was working with them; just like today.

HOW TO DISCERN THE COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL MUSIC AND FALSE WORSHIP

“In many of the revivals which have occurred during *the last half century*, the same influences have been at work, to a greater or less degree, that will be manifest in the more extensive movements of the future. *There is an emotional excitement, a mingling of the true with the false, that is well adapted to mislead.* Yet none need be deceived. *In the light of God’s word it is not difficult to determine* the nature of these movements. *Wherever men neglect the testimony of the Bible, turning away from those plain, soul-testing truths which require self-denial and renunciation of the world, there we may be sure that God’s blessing is not*

⁷ Fundamentals of Christian Education, 97

⁸ Selected Messages, Book.2, 26, 27

bestowed. And by the rule which Christ Himself has given, 'Ye shall know them by their fruits' (Matthew 7:16), it is evident that these movements are not the work of the Spirit of God."⁹

THE FALSE REVIVAL OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP WILL BE REPEATED TODAY

"I have been shown that deceptions like those [false revivals] we were called to meet *in the early experiences of the message would be repeated*, and that we shall have to meet them again in the closing days of the work. At this time we are required to bring all our powers under the control of God, exercising our faculties in accordance with the light He has given. Read the fourth and fifth chapters of Matthew. Study Matthew 4:8-10; also chapter 5:13. Meditate upon the sacred work that was carried forward by Christ. It is thus that the principles of the Word of God are to be brought into our labors."¹⁰

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such *a revival of primitive godliness* as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. *The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word.* Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. *The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.* In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power *he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit.* Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world."¹¹ Those statements do not need any commentary; if you look many professed Christian churches you will see that they have accepted this counterfeit gospel music and false worship.

In Selected Messages, Book 2, page 36 we find a prediction that is being fulfilled today: "The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, *the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation.* Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be *shouting, with drums, music, and dancing.* The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit never reveals itself in such methods, in such a bedlam of noise. *This is an invention of Satan to cover up his ingenious methods for making of none effect the pure, sincere, elevating, ennobling, sanctifying truth for this time.* Better never have the worship of God blended with music than to use musical instruments to do the work which last January was represented to me would be brought into our camp meetings [S.D.A camp meetings]. *The truth for this time needs nothing of this kind in its work of converting souls.* A bedlam of noise shocks the senses and perverts that which if conducted aright might be a blessing." Stop right here! The reason why Satan has inspired men to bring in the shouting, with drums, music and dancing is to cover up the truth of Jesus, which is the work of

⁹ The Great Controversy, 464

¹⁰ Selected Messages, Book 2, 28

¹¹ The Great Controversy, 464

preparation to meet the close of human probation. The people who are participating in the false music and false worship cannot discern truth from error, because their senses are shocked. Thus Satan can inspire preachers and teachers to deceive the people, thus fulfilling the prophecy of 2Timothy 3:13: “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, *deceiving, and being deceived.*” I know what I am talking about concerning this false music and false worship.

THIS AUTHOR ENCOUNTERED THE COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL MUSIC IN CHURCH

Here is a brief testimony which will give clearer light upon the false music and false worship styles taking place in the professed Christian churches. While I was ignorant concerning the proper music and true worship, I have attended churches in New York City, Atlanta, Georgia, Huntsville, Alabama, Orlando, Florida and other places where the praise teams, choirs, and the musical bands have sung songs and danced in front of the congregations for more than ninety minutes in the church; not to mention concerts, Youth Congress gatherings, and Camp Meetings. At the end of their “praise sessions” the singers or choirs and the members of the congregation were perspiring profusely like they had just taken a shower or a bath. By the time the preacher was ready to speak the congregation was sometimes tired and unable to listen attentively without sleeping. Other times the preachers would just carry on the same hype and hypnotic fever from the prior music carnival throughout his sermon to keep the people on a high frenzy like a theatrical performance. Other times the preachers will touch on the usual sins that we hear of every day so that their sermons will sound substantial, such sins as: don’t criticize your neighbor; don’t judge anybody. While the darling and popular sins are left unmentioned, such as: pride, ambition, selfishness, intemperance, nakedness, indolence, indulgence of appetite and animal passions, wearing of jewelry, secular music, the reading of infidel authors, the love of money, competitive sports, worldly entertainment, etc. The other cherished sins are too many to list here. These false revival churches or celebration churches are the largest in Christendom, because both old and young people do not want to attend any church unless they can “feel the spirit” by the emotionalism of the counterfeit music and false worship styles. My heart pains me to see people who should know better participating in this false music and false worship and are leading others into perdition. I have shown many people the truth about music from the Bible and sacred history and they have been converted to the truth. I say praise the Lord! However, there are some who do not want to hear the truth, because they are stuck in false tradition. They grew up seeing a certain form of worship and they have accepted it hook, line, and sinker without scrutinizing it and comparing it with the Bible.

TRUE SCIENCE EXPOSES THE COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL MUSIC

I will pause here to say that extensive scientific research has been conducted on the negative effects of certain types of music, where rhythm is the chief tone and sound, overpowering the melody and the harmony. Such genres of music as rock, rap, reggae, calypso, jazz, blues, R&B, and others have been shown to alter the regions of the brain, the frontal and temporal lobes, that deal with alertness, memory, learning, moral worth, and reasoning power. For further information concerning the physiological effects of music read Dr. Neil Nedley’s Proof Positive, the chapter entitled “The Frontal Lobe.” We can see clearly

that Satan's attack is upon the mind to make it impossible to discern truth from error. Let us continue to read Selected Messages, Book 2

“The powers of satanic agencies blend with the din and noise, to have a carnival, and this is termed the Holy Spirit's working. *When the camp meeting is ended, the good which ought to have been done and which might have been done by the presentation of sacred truth is not accomplished.* Those participating in the supposed revival receive impressions which lead them adrift. *They cannot tell what they formerly knew regarding Bible principles.*” Do you understand the force of this statement? The true message can be delivered by a faithful minister in one of these celebration churches, and yet not comprehended by the congregation because just prior to the message, they were participating in the singing and swinging, dancing and stomping, clapping and shouting, just like what takes place in the worldly festivals or night clubs. This prophecy has and is still being fulfilled week after week in our churches, while the truth goes unnoticed and unappreciated because “men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil,” John 3:19. Those words will bring condemnation upon anyone who remains in false worship because the truth has come.

THE COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL MUSIC SHOULD NOT BE USED IN EVANGELISM

We read a statement earlier from Selected Messages, Book 2, page 36, which says, “Better never have the worship of God blended with music than to use musical instruments to do the work which last January was represented to me would be brought into our camp meetings. *The truth for this time needs nothing of this kind in its work of converting souls.*” However, today youth leaders, community service leaders, and pastors, think that their churches are dying because both old and young people are leaving to attend other “lively churches,” where music is the center of worship. We are not pagans, who put the idolatrous sacrifice of the Mass at the center of their worship; the Word of God—the everlasting gospel—should be at the center of worship. As the above quotation stresses, “better never have the worship of God blended with music” than to bring in worldly music; it is more preferable to have no music at all than to have Satanic music in our worship. But we find that these leaders of the churches try to use worldly gospel songs and rhythms, musical bands, competitive sports, and worldly entertainment to keep their churches “alive” with members. These leaders of the professed Christian churches also borrow the worldly methods from pagans, because those churches are filled with members. Those church leaders bring in unconsecrated methods into soul winning. But the above quote says, “*The truth for this time needs nothing of this kind [the counterfeit gospel music] in its work of converting souls.*” Yes, souls are coming into the church, but are they grounded in the truth? Do they know what they believe or do they only know the lyrics and beats of these secular songs, which they call gospel music? Are they able to give a Bible study to lead a soul to Jesus? How often do they pray and meditate upon Jesus and the reality of preparation to meet Him in peace? How much time and means do they put into the Lord's work? And are they living the truth of health reform? Now is the time for us to get this true experience as Christians and leave the counterfeit music and false worship styles alone.

Read this quotation, “The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist *in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith*, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be

discarded. Our religion would be changed. *The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error.* A new organization would be established. *Books of a new order would be written.* A system of *intellectual philosophy* would be introduced. *The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work.* The *Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded,* as also the God who created it. *Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement.* The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. *Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.*¹²

This quotation has a lot of important points for us to take note of; however, notice these points: City evangelism will grow rapidly and souls will be baptized into the Christian churches. The counterfeit music and false worship styles will be used to win these souls, but “storm and tempest will sweep away the structure.” Whose structure will be swept away by the storm and tempest? It will be those who are participating in the false music and false worship styles. You might be wondering what is the storm and tempest. In short, I will say that it is the close of human probation. At that time only “those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. We must be divested of our self-righteousness and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ.”¹³

AN APPEAL TO SEPARATE FROM THE COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL MUSIC AND WORSHIP

The close of human probation is about to take place and it is high time for us to worship God *in spirit and in truth*, not according to false tradition. I will reiterate this point: Satan used false music and false worship to deceive the Israelites as they were about to enter the Promised Land; he used false music and false worship to deceive the Advent believers around the time of 1844 so that they would not understand the truth concerning the Heavenly Sanctuary or the work of preparation for Jesus' Second Advent; and he is doing the same work today as we are about to enter Heaven. “The things you have described as taking place in Indiana, *the Lord has shown me would take place just before the close of probation.* Every uncouth thing will be demonstrated. There will be *shouting, with drums, music, and dancing.* The senses of rational beings will become so confused that they cannot be trusted to make right decisions. And this is called the moving of the Holy Spirit.”¹⁴ Have you forsaken the false music and false worship styles of Satan? I recommend that you get rid of your worldly music, the counterfeit gospel music, which you have on tapes, CDs, DVDs, and MP3 players. Remember that Satan disguises himself as an angel of light, and will present himself in an almost unrecognizable manner. But you have to study God's word to find out the acceptable kind of music that God desires. Are you worshipping Jesus in spirit and in truth and separating yourself from all worldly entanglements? And are you teaching your neighbors what constitutes true worship? If not, it is time for you to stop following the traditions of the world, and start following Jesus, according to the principles you have learned in this article. The wise man Solomon says, “It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.” Prepare to meet thy God!

¹² Selected Messages, Book 1, page 204

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Selected Messages, Book 2, 36