

APOLOGETICS

Greek Word: *apologia* (defense of the faith)

Christian Music

2023 Apologetics Class

1 Thes 5:21-22

Test all things; hold fast what is good.
Abstain from every form of evil.

Christian Music

2023 Apologetics Class

“If you don’t use discernment, you are a prime target for deception”

– Dave Jenkins
Equipping You in Grace



Prov 2:3-6

Yes, if you cry out for discernment,
And lift up your voice for understanding,

- 4 If you seek her as silver,
And search for her as for hidden treasures;
- 5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,
And find the knowledge of God.
- 6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Contemporary Christian Music (CCM):

- ~ What is it?**
- ~ Who are we talking about?**
- ~ What is the message?**

Christian Music

What is it?

**What does this mean when we say
“Christian Music”?**

Here is how Wikipedia defines it:

Christian music is music that has been written to express either personal or a communal belief regarding Christian life and faith. Common themes of Christian music include praise, worship, penitence and lament and its forms vary widely around the world. Church music, hymnals, gospel and worship music are a part of Christian media and also include contemporary Christian music which itself supports numerous Christian styles of music, including hip hop, rock, contemporary worship and urban contemporary gospel.

Wikipedia continued...

Like other forms of music the creation, performance, significance and even the definition of Christian music varies according to culture and social context. Christian music is composed and performed for many purposes, ranging from aesthetic pleasure, religious or ceremonial purposes or with a positive message as an entertainment product for the marketplace.

Contemporary Christian Music (CCM)

- There are approximately 70+ Christian Record Labels. **This does not include the almost hundreds of independent (Indy) labels that don't get radio play.*
- Within the top 10 of these 70 + labels:
 - Hillsong Worship (Brooke Ligertwood)
 - Elevation Worship (Chris Brown, Jenna Barrientes)
 - Fair Trade Services (Phil Wickham, Colton Dixon, CeCe Winans)
 - Essential Records (Matt Maher, Lauren Wells)
 - Bethel Music (Brandon Lake,
 - Motown
 - Capitol Christian Music Group (Jeremy Camp, Michael W. Smith)
 - Centricity
 - Rocketown Records (founded by Michael W. Smith in 1996)
 - Reunion

Top Christian Artists 2023

- Elevation Worship
- Mercy Me
- Bethel Music
- We Are Messengers
- Kanye West
- Sanctus Real
- Newsboys
- Shane & Shane
- Lacrae
- Jesus Culture
- Gateway Worship
- Maverick City Music
- Hillsong Worship
- Chris Tomlin
- Toby Mac
- Need to Breathe
- Lauren Daigle
- Matthew West
- Jeremy Camp
- Casting Crowns
- Steven Curtis Chapman
- Phil Wickham
- Big Daddy Weave
- For King & Country
- Skillet
- Zach Williams

**When does music become Christian? Or when is
music considered Christian?**

When does music become Christian? Or when is music considered Christian?

- Christ is the subject**
- Based on Scripture**
- Glorifies/Exalts who God is**
- Magnifies What God has Done**
- Celebrates Victories and Trials from a Biblical View**
- Testifies of a Believers Personal Experiences**
- Honors God from a place of Gratefulness/Thankfulness**
- Worships God in Spirit and Truth**

But can the lyrics be "Christian"? Not technically. *Christian* means "follower of Christ." This can only refer to a person—not a song, a book, or a business. Although the terms get clunky, it would be better to call a song's lyrics "scripturally sound" or "biblically edifying. - GotQuestions.org

Christian Music Industry /Marketplace (\$\$\$)



Contemporary Christian Music (CCM)

*From an online article in *Christianity Today*, written in April, 2023...

“Our Worship is Turning Praise into Secular Profit”

Contemporary Christian Music (CCM)

Christian Music Industry and Impact (\$\$\$)

- “The Christian industry mirrors the financial incentives and structures of the mainstream music industry, so it makes sense that Christian artists would rely on touring for income.”

Christianity Today - May/June 2023
“Our Worship is Turning Praise into Secular Profit”

Christian Music Industry and Impact (\$\$\$)

- “The words and melodies that stir hearts to worship each Sunday are also intellectual property (IP) on the market, caught up in a recent surge of acquisitions across the music industry. The investment activity has become a “feeding frenzy,” according to industry executive Hartwig Masuch, with worship hits a small part of the billions invested in IP and royalty streams.”

Christianity Today - May/June 2023
“Our Worship is Turning Praise into Secular Profit”

Christian Music Industry and Impact (\$\$\$)

- Trends toward IP acquisition, lucrative arena tours, and corporate consolidation have helped drive record-setting revenues over the past two years—the touring industry saw **\$6.28 billion** in 2022, and recording revenues in the US reached an all-time high of **\$15.9 billion**, growing for the seventh consecutive year.

Christianity Today - May/June 2023
“Our Worship is Turning Praise into Secular Profit”

Christian Music

2023 Apologetics Class

Christian Music Industry and Impact (\$\$\$)

- The song “Lion and the Lamb” by Christian artist Leeland Mooring, Brenton Brown and Bethel’s Brian Johnson was sold to a private investor in 2020 as part of a \$900,000 package. This song, along with a bundle of others had brought in **\$153,393 in revenue** the year before.
- Just three (financial) quarters later, that initial investment was quoted to reach a **15% return**

Christianity Today - May/June 2023
“Our Worship is Turning Praise into Secular Profit”

Christian Music Industry and Impact (\$\$\$)

-- “A portion of the rights and royalties for Mooring’s song, which would have once been continuously paid out to the song’s creators and label, were sold at auction in 2020 as a part of a **\$900,000 package** to a private investor. The bundle of songs had made \$156,393 the year before, more than three-quarters from the use of “Lion and The Lamb.” The investors who made the winning bid was quoted an industry-projected return of 15 percent.”

Christianity Today - May/June 2023
“Our Worship is Turning Praise into Secular Profit”

Christian Music Industry and Impact (\$\$\$)

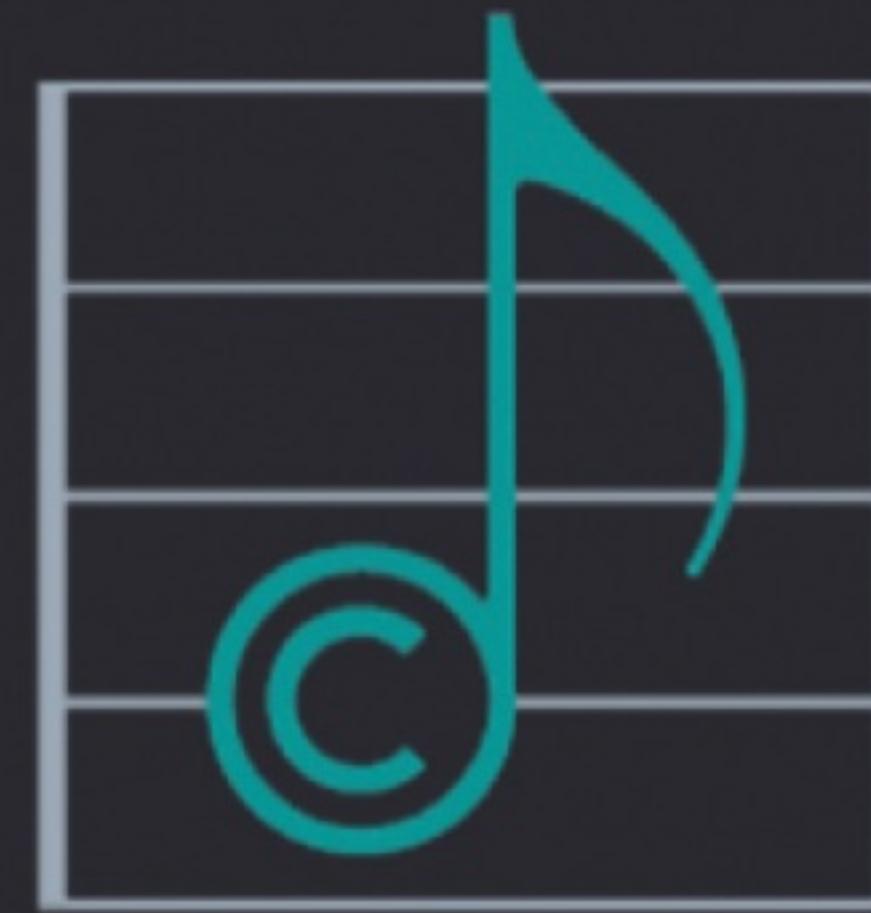
- Among writers, performers, agents, publicists, tour organizers, record labels, publishers, investors, are all looking for new worship songs to become hits and for hit worship songs to remain popular and profitable.

Christianity Today - May/June 2023
“Our Worship is Turning Praise into Secular Profit”

Christian Music Industry and Impact (\$\$\$)

Investors may or may not have any interest in the spiritual aspect of the music, but since their profits rely on songs' continued use by church congregations, they have a financial interest in what churches sing on Sunday mornings.

Christianity Today - May/June 2023
“Our Worship is Turning Praise into Secular Profit”



® Christian Copyright Licensing
International

CCLI

**Most (if not all churches) pay an annual fee to CCLI*

CCLI

Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI), which provides copyright licenses to use music from a vast library of artists; it ranks its most popular songs twice a year in the CCLI Top 100.

CCLI

Calvary Castle Rock pays an annual fee to CCLI that in turn, supports the artists, authors /writers and creators of the songs/ lyrics that we play, sing, print or display (on screen) here at the church. CCLI distributes small payments to the artists and publishers, based on how many times we have used their song.

CCLI

Copyright owners (often record labels) receive 50 percent of these royalties, while featured artists receive 45 percent, and non-featured musicians and non-featured vocalists receive 2.5 percent each.

Those royalties can be anywhere from \$2.00 per quarter minimum) up to \$250.00

“A lot of people are getting their theology from music...There is a piety being formed by music in the church—ideas of who God is, what God does.”

Christianity Today - May/June 2023
“Our Worship is Turning Praise into Secular Profit”

Contemporary Christian Music (CCM):

~ Where is the accountability?

“Pastoral oversight was nonexistent, unless you sought it out. Early on we had a ‘band pastor’ who did a monthly meeting with the band. It was sort of an ‘open through struggles, if you will. It was difficult to keep up, with all the travelling and it eventually fizzled out. So, even bands/artists that have some sort of pastoral oversight...it’s not super accessible. So, the short answer is there is no oversight, no checks and balances, and no doctrinal influence.”

- *Miranda*





“It first comes down to the individual. You have to be submitted to the Holy Spirit...to the Lord. First, I’ve got to be and STAY accountable to Him.

99% of the time it (*accountability*) comes from my brothers in the band...and we all need to stay humble! On a daily basis, we need to be open and willing to hear correction from those closest to us... We (*believers*) all listen and respond to certain voices throughout our life...it’s either our self, the World, the enemy or the Holy Spirit”

- *Leif*

“Being inside of a niche (of a niche) market ...wondering, “Is God using this?” It’s easy to look inward and believe it’s about me. I have to keep asking myself, How do I make Jesus the main the character of my life?”

- *Leif*

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Prov 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

2 Cor 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Contemporary Christian Music

(CCM)

~~THEOLOGY~~

~~WITNESS~~

~~BIBLE~~

Contemporary Christian Music (CCM):

~ Who are we talking about?

2 Peter 2:1

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. ² And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Bethel



Bill Johnson

Bethel (Bill Johnson)

- Brian & Jen Johnson ("It's Gonna Be Ok" / "Living Hope")
- Steffany Gretzinger
- Kristine DiMarco
- William Matthews
- Jeremy Riddle
- Cory Asbury ("Reckless Love")
- Bethany Wohrle
- Josh Baldwin ("I Believe" / "Evidence")
- Amanda Cook
- Sean Feucht
- Brandon Lake ("Gratitude" / "This Is A Move")



Banning and SeaJay Liebscher

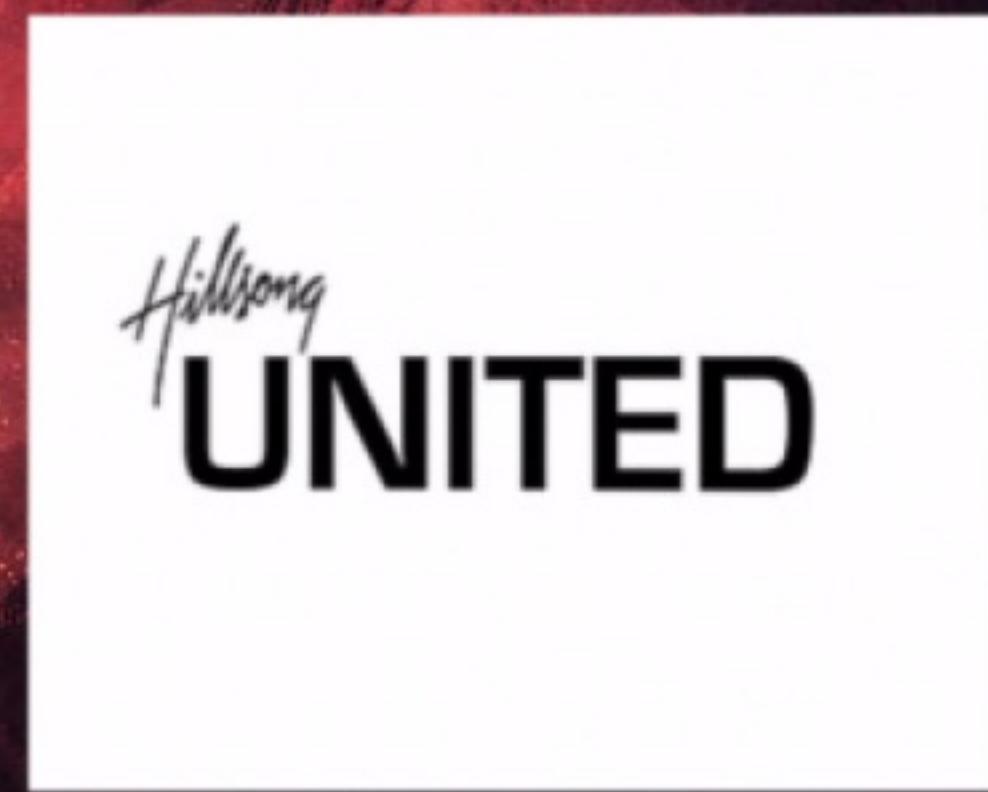


Jesus Culture (Banning and SeaJay Liebscher)

- **Derek Johnson**
- **Chris McClarney**
- **Chris Quilala**
- **Brian & Katie Torwalt**
- **Kim Walker-Smith (“Prophesy”)**



Brian and Bobbie Houston



Hillsong (Brian & Barbie Houston)

- **Brooke Ligertwood** (“What A Beautiful Name” & “Hosanna”)
- **Reuben Morgan**
- **Benjamin William Hastings**
- **Taya Smith**



Steven Furtick

Elevation Worship (Steven Furtick)

- **Chris Brown**
- **Jonsal Barrientes**
- **Jenna Barrientes**
- **Tiffany Hudson**
- **Isaiah Templeton**
- **Davide Mutendji**



Robert Morris



Gateway Church (Robert Morris)

- **Thomas Miller**
- **Sion Alford**
- **Walker Beach**
- **Mark Harris**
- **Tim Shepherd**
- **Jessica Shepherd**
- **Levi Benjamin**
- **Aaron Cider**
- **David Moore**



Henry and Alex Seeley

**THE
BELONGING
C°**

Belonging Co. (Pastors Henry & Alex Seely)

- Cody Carnes (“Too Good to Not Believe”/ “Aint Nobody”)
- Kari Jobe (“The Blessing”/ “I Am Not Alone”)
- Natalie Grant (“Just The Mention of His Name”/ “Turn Your Eyes”)
- Danny Gokey
- Mia Fieldes
- Meredith Andrews
- Andrew Holt
- Hope Darst (“Promise Keeper”/ “If The Lord Builds the House”)
- Daniella Mason
- Maggie Reed
- Sarah Reeves
- Henry Seeley *(pastor)



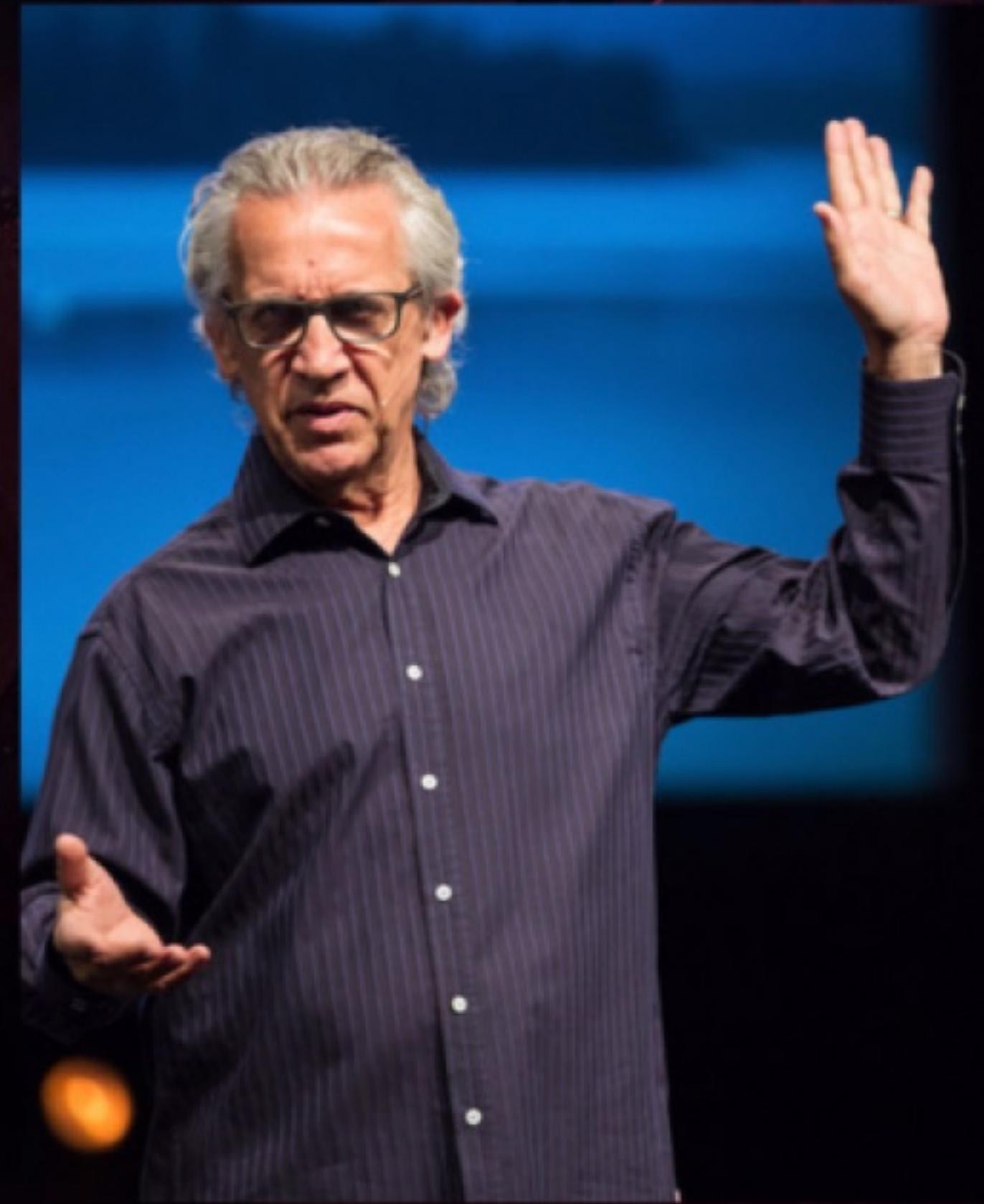
Maverick City Music

- Jonathan Jay
- Brandon Lake
- Chandler Moore
- Naomi Raine

“Jireh” “Million Little Miracles” “Firm Foundation” (He Won’t)

What's in the Music?

- Prayer Declarations
- Prophecy
- Prosperity (Health & Wealth gospel)
- Positive Confession (Speaking things into existence)
- Little “gods” Doctrine (we are all little gods/we can do miracles/ healing)
- Calling Heaven Down to Earth
- Raising people from the Dead (we can raise people from the dead)



“We are exporters, I don’t ever want to change that...Let’s get a model that can be duplicated anywhere in the world...And let’s take it somewhere. And let’s plant it. Let’s plant it through Jesus Culture (the music label and church) let’s plant it through the music we write. Let’s plant it through the conferences we do.”

– *Bill Johnson*
Lead Pastor of Bethel
Counterfeit Kingdom

MY NAME IS CHANDLER MOORE

I AM A SINGER, SONGWRITER, AND WORSHIP LEADER.

You might know me from my partnership with Maverick City Music; we are a collective of worshippers who are committed to deconstructing unspoken rules that exist in the CCM and Gospel world.

I am originally from Charleston, South Carolina, where I attended the church where my father was a pastor. I have had the great opportunity to collaborate with other artists like Justin Bieber, Steffany Gretzinger, Dante Bowe, and Elevation Worship on projects like *Old Church Basement*, "Voice of God," and "Where Do I Fit In." Before that, I was a background vocalist for Travis Greene and wrote various songs featured on projects by Bri Babineaux and Tye Tribbett. In 2020, I debuted my first solo album, *Feelings*, after releasing a series of singles over the years before that.

I am blessed with my beautiful wife, Hannah, and my three amazing kids. My pursuit in life is simple: to live a life worthy of my calling.







alisachilders

LAUREN
DAIGLE



1 Tim 4:1

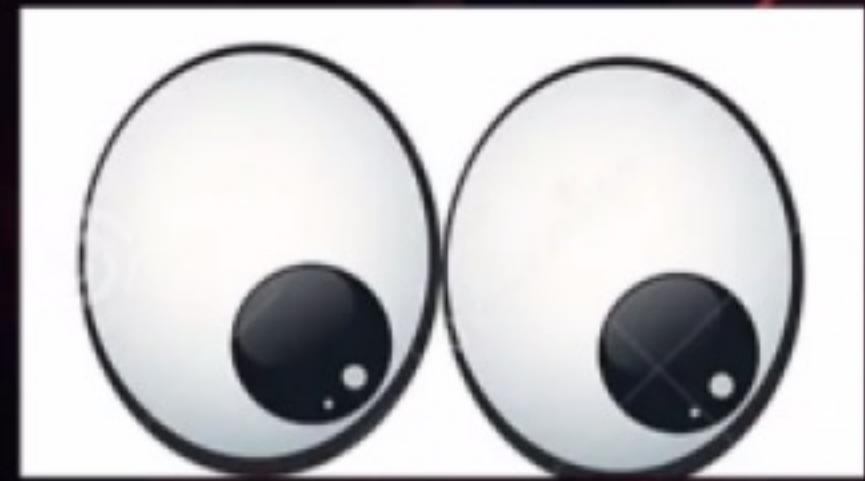
Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.

The Berean Test

- 1. What message does the song communicate?**
- 2. How much of the lyrics line up with Scripture?**
- 3. How would an outsider interpret the song?**
- 4. What does this song glorify?**



Let's take a closer look...



Hmmmmmm???

Too Good to Not Believe

By:

Brandon Lake and Cody Carnes (Bethel)



Too Good to Not Believe

Verse:

...You're the wonder working God
And You heal because You love
Oh the miracles we'll see
You're too good to not believe...

I can't resurrect a man with my own hands
And just the mention of Your name
can raise the dead...

Bridge:

I've seen cancer disappear
I've seen broken bodies healed
Don't you tell me He can't do it
Don't you tell me He can't do it

I've seen real life resurrection
I've seen mental health restored
Don't you tell me He can't do it
Don't you tell me He can't do it

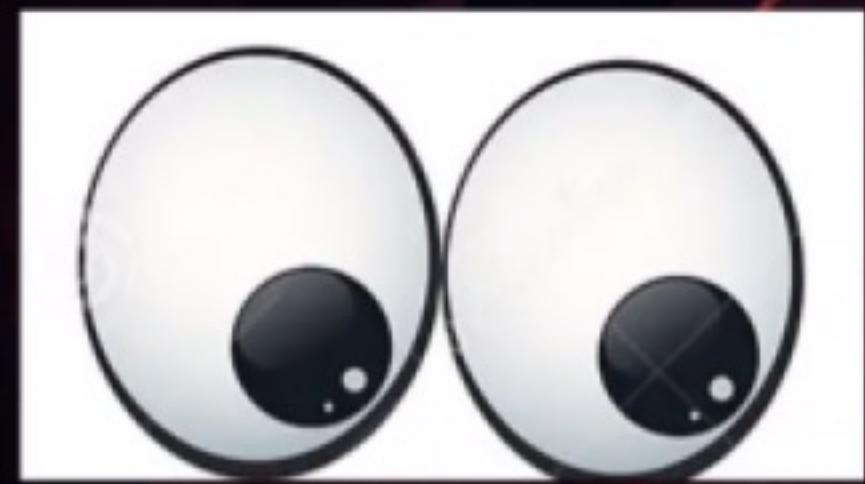
Bridge Continued:

I've seen cancer disappear
I've seen broken bodies healed
Don't you tell me He can't do it
Don't you tell me He can't do it

I've seen real life resurrection
I've seen mental health restored
Don't you tell me He can't do it
Don't you tell me He can't do it

I've seen families reunited
I've seen prodigals return
Don't you tell me He can't do it
Don't you tell me He can't do it

Let's take a closer look...



Hmmmmmm???

Just The Mention of His Name

By:

The Belonging Co. (Featuring Andrew Holt & Natalie Grant)



Just the Mention of His Name

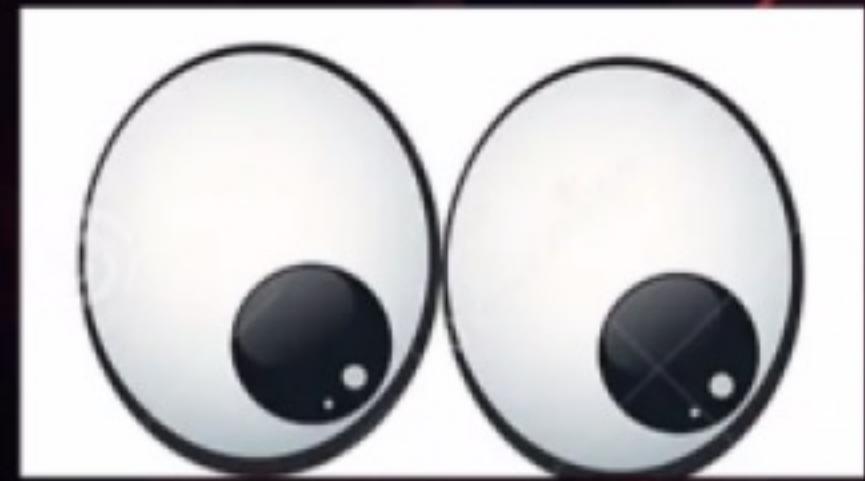
By The Belonging Co.

Verse 1:

If you walked in sick
You're gonna walk out healed
If you walked in bound
You're gonna walk out free

Just the mention of His name
Just the mention of His name
Just the mention of His name
Everything can change
Everything can change

Let's take a closer look...



Hmmmmmm???

This Is A Move

By:

Brandon Lake, Nate Moore, Tasha Cobbs Leonard, Tony Brown



WONDERS ARE STILL WHAT YOU DO

This Is A Move

Verse 1:

Mountains are still being moved

Strongholds are still being loosed

God, we believe it, yes, we can see that

Wonders are still what You do

Chorus:

We are here for You

Come and do what You do

We are here for You

Come and do what You do

Set our hearts on You

Come and do what You do

'Cause we need a move

We need a move

Verse 2:

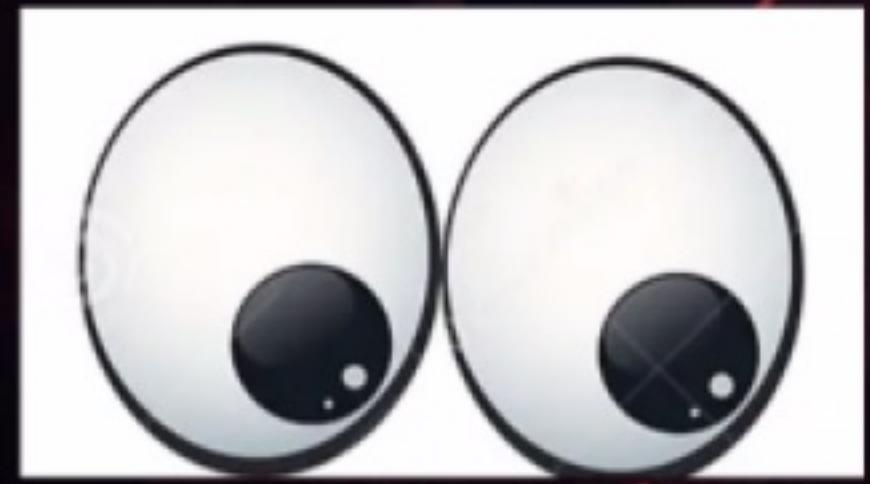
And bodies are still being raised

And giants are still being slayed

God, we believe it, and yes, we can see that

Wonders are still what You do **(Repeat Chorus)**

Let's take a closer look...



Hmmmmmm???

Jesus Is My Healer

By:
Gateway Worship



He's everything I need

Jesus Is My Healer

By Gateway Worship

Verse 1:

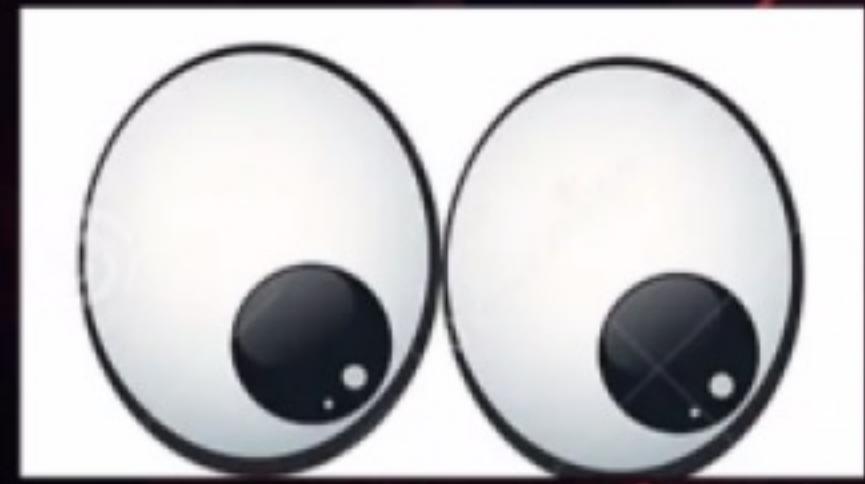
Oh that rugged cross
The selfless pain He bore
He breathed His final breath
That I would be restored

By His body that was broken
Precious blood freely shed
The spotless Lamb of heaven
Has forever conquered death

Chorus:

Jesus is my healer
He's everything I need
He alone has triumphed
Over sickness and disease
Fear where is your power
The cross is your defeat
Jesus is my healer
He's one the victory

Let's take a closer look...



Hmmmmmm???

Prophesy

By:

Kim Walker -Smith (Jesus Culture)



THIS VALLEY ISN'T WHERE
I'M MEANT TO STAY

Prophesy

By Kim Walker-Smith (Jesus Culture)

Verse 1:

I'm not gonna loose this fight today
This valley isn't where I'm meant to stay
Reality may shout but truth will lead me out
I'm not gonna settle for half way
Your promise in its fullness I will claim
The mountain may be high
But faith says so am I

Chorus:

I'm gonna tell these bones to live
Get up, get up
I'm gonna tell these lungs to sing
Speak to every sickness
Call our every lie... Prophesy

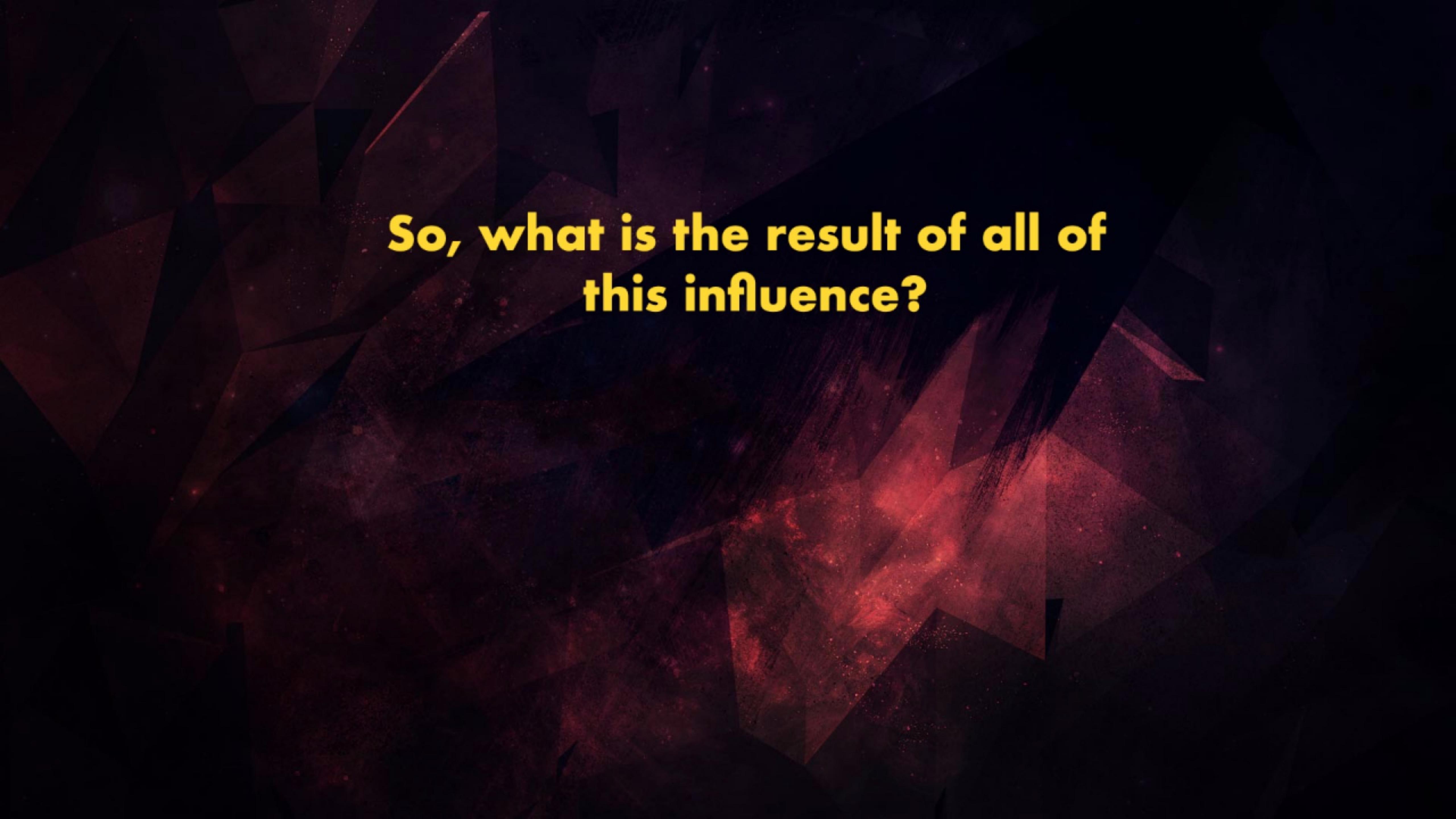
Bridge:

Over every curse I will lift my voice
If speak Your Word, it will not be void
No I won't give up 'til I see a change
I'll watch heaven come as I speak Your name

Why is it important to be discerning about Christian music? Because the music we use in church and listen to at home teaches us theology, and it sticks in our memories (which is why a lot of Scripture memory programs set Bible verses to music to help with memorization). You probably couldn't recite verbatim a quote from last Sunday's sermon, but I'll bet you know the lyrics of a lot of songs by heart. It's important that those lyrics contain good theology.

- Christianity Today





**So, what is the result of all of
this influence?**

Christian Concert or Rock Concert?





A photograph of a concert stage. The stage is bathed in purple and blue lights, with a complex truss lighting rig above. A band is performing; a woman in the center is singing into a microphone and has her right arm raised. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of audience members' heads and raised hands are visible, creating a sense of a live performance.

Is this worship? I can't keep track





~~THEOLOGY~~

~~WITNESS~~

~~BIBLE~~

Why is it important to be discerning about Christian music? Because the music we use in church and listen to at home teaches us theology, and it sticks in our memories (which is why a lot of Scripture memory programs set Bible verses to music to help with memorization). You probably couldn't recite verbatim a quote from last Sunday's sermon, but I'll bet you know the lyrics of a lot of songs by heart. It's important that those lyrics contain good theology.

It's imperative for churches to be discerning about the CCM they use in worship. If Jane Churchmember hears a CCM song in church and likes it, she's likely to Google the song (probably right there in church- I've done it!), find out who sings it, and begin following that artist. Worship pastors who use CCM have a responsibility to vet the artists who perform the songs they select for the worship service to make sure they're not sending Jane into the arms of a heretic. Additionally, music costs money, and you don't want your church's offerings supporting false doctrine.

- Christianity Today

“Let’s not get our doctrine from our worship leaders and Christian artists...let’s get it from the Bible.”

- Leif

Ecc 12:13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God and keep His commandments,

For this is man's all.

For God will bring every work into judgment,

Including every secret thing,

Whether good or evil.



The background features a dark, abstract geometric pattern composed of numerous triangles. The triangles are primarily a deep red color, with some having a darker, almost black, outline. They are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, radiating from the center of the frame. The overall effect is dramatic and modern, with a high-contrast color palette.

THE END



Worship

In worship human beings recognize God for his attributes and express this through adoration, praise, thanksgiving, service, and living holy lives. Worship constitutes the primary calling of humans.

Easton's Bible Dictionary - Music

Jubal was the inventor of musical instruments ([Genesis 4:21](#)).

The Hebrews were much given to the cultivation of music. Their whole history and literature afford abundant evidence of this.

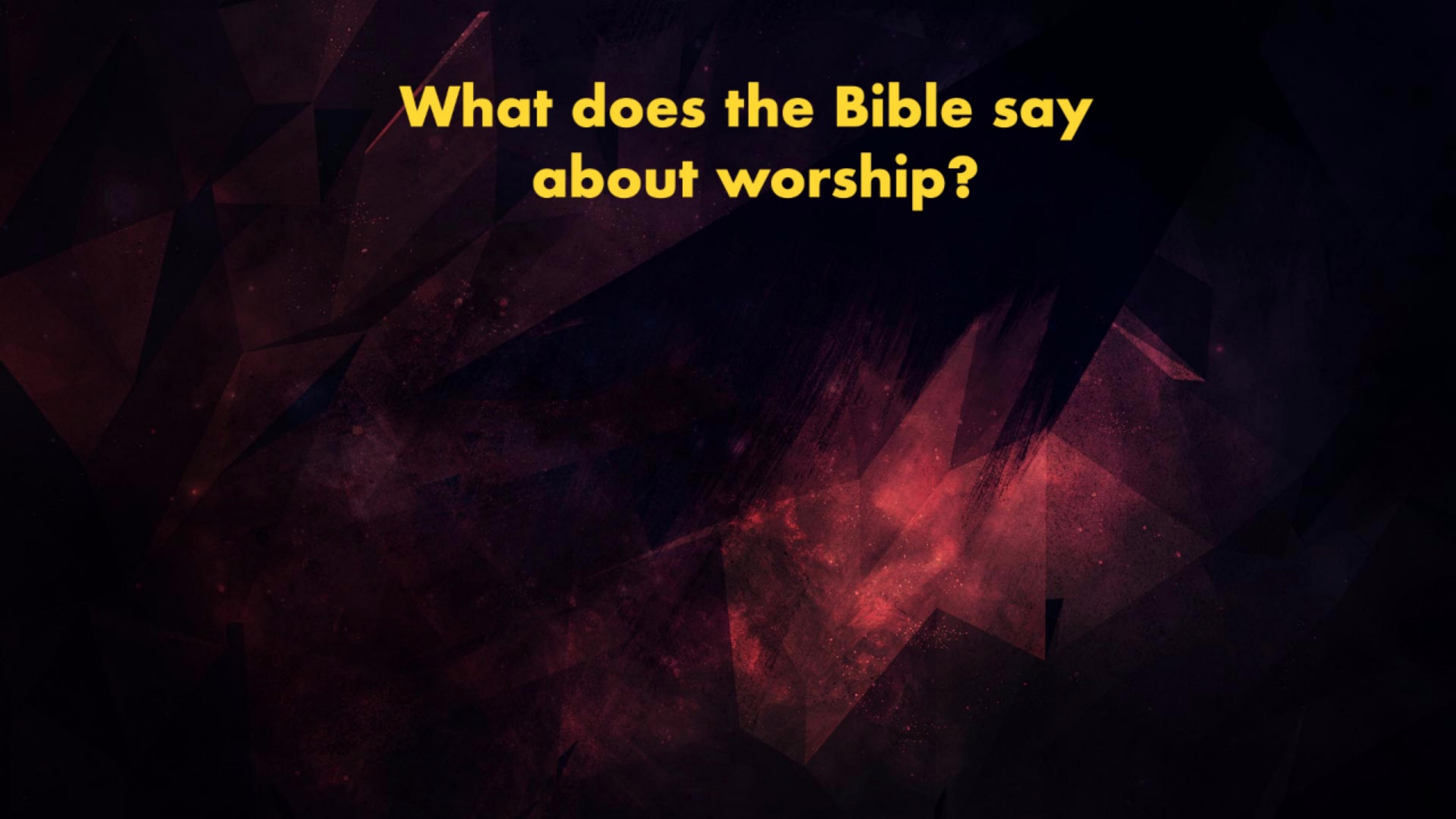
After the Deluge, the first mention of music is in the account of Laban's interview with Jacob ([Genesis 31:27](#)). After their triumphal passage of the Red Sea, Moses and the children of Israel sang their song of deliverance ([Exodus 15](#)).

Easton's Bible Dictionary - Music

But the period of Samuel, David, and Solomon was the golden age of Hebrew music, as it was of Hebrew poetry. Music was now for the first time systematically cultivated. It was an essential part of training in the schools of the prophets (**1 Samuel 10:5** ; **19:19-24** ; **2 Kings 3:15** ; **1 Chronicles 25:6**). There now arose also a class of professional singers (**2 Samuel 19:35** ; **Ecc 2:8**).

Easton's Bible Dictionary - Music

The temple, however, was the great school of music. In the conducting of its services large bands of trained singers and players on instruments were constantly employed (**2 Samuel 6:5** ; **1 Chronicles 15** ; **16**; **25:16**).



What does the Bible say about worship?

Worship

- The most common Biblical word for “worship” (or “shachah” in the Hebrew) literally means “bend over” or “bow down.” It describes a gesture of respect or submission to human beings, to God, or to idols (e.g., Genesis 18:2, Exodus 20:4 - 6)

Worship

Deut 6: 4-6

(The Greatest Commandment in the OT or *The Great Shema*)

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

Music...Worship

- To ascribe worth to a person or object.
- Homage or great submission to God.
- To worship something is to prize it above everything else. To honor it as the thing of highest importance and to act accordingly.