

Dear Mimi,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked if Psalm 33:1-3 says that in order to sing praises to the LORD, one must be a professional singer. You said that you believe in your heart that one does not need to be a trained singer to sing praises to God.

“Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the LORD with harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.” (Psalm 33:1-3)

We agree with you. You do not need to be a trained singer or musician in order to sing praises of gratitude to God. God hears and accepts our heart-felt praises to him, even when we lack musical ability. “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:19-20)

However, there appears to be a much deeper meaning to Psalm 33:1-3 and, we believe, the key to that meaning is in the words “new song.” These words are found in several other Psalms (40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1), as well as in Isaiah 42:10 and Revelation 5:9. The “new song” that is being sung is by the faithful followers of Jesus who are now with Him in heaven. Only they, the “righteous” (Psalm 33:1), are worthy to sing this song at this time. These saints are often referred to as the “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 6:15). “And they [the new creation, now glorified in heaven] sang a new song: ‘You [Jesus, the Lamb of God] are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.’” (Revelation 5:9)

Why is this song called “new”? The song is new because it will only be fully realized by the world when God’s kingdom is set up on earth and every nation will understand his wonderful plan of redemption for all. Only then will the entire human race be able to bring glory to God’s name by worshipping him in righteousness and truth with songs of praise, just as the saints do now. “Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” (Psalm 96:1-3) We look forward to that marvelous day when these verses sung so long ago will be brought to fruition.

We hope we have explained the deeper meaning to Psalm 33:1-3. So keep on singing! Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio