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Timeless

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WHAT IS THE PSALTER/COMMENTARY PROJECT?

A Ministry...

The goal of this project is to publish a multi-volume psalter for use in corporate worship and in personal study and devotion. The project is unique in its purpose and method. It grew out of the recognition that reading, studying, and singing Psalms, which once was common practice for Christians, has decreased over the last century. Because the Psalter instructs Christians in the words and movement of worship, Mark Shipp, Professor of Old Testament, initiated a project to set the psalms to music.

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF PSALMS IN THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH.

WHAT MAKES THE PROJECT UNIQUE?

Musically...

The hymns and spiritual songs composed for this project are not restatements of the psalms but interpretations that allow the words and the music to join in creating praise worthy of our God and King.

Each psalm has multiple settings. Generally, this includes a more traditional setting (hymns) and a more contemporary setting (spiritual songs). Some psalms are also produced as chants. Our goal is an aesthetically pleasing and biblically insightful composition.

Instructionally...

The hymns and songs are accompanied by commentary on the teaching and structure of the psalm. The notes also include the relevance of the psalm for faith and life today. These comments, written by Old Testament scholars, allow Christians to recover the treasure of the Psalms for the contemporary world.

METHODODOLOGY

Composition

The lyrics of each hymn or song are based on a new translation of the psalm from the original Hebrew. The composition attempts to represent faithfully the emphases and structural movement of the psalm. Each composer focuses on the logical units found in the psalm.

Because each composer works from scholars’ notes and translations, the poetry is fresh, insightful, and biblically sound.

Publication

We plan to publish five volumes corresponding with the five books of the Hebrew Psalter.

All the songs are reviewed by a committee of musicians and scholars to ensure that each song is true to the message of Scripture and valuable for worship.

The prototype volume *Timeless: Ancient Psalms for the Church Today* is currently available along with an optional CD.