

Correcting Holy, Holy, Holy (Page 1 Our Song Books)

1. When we sing we are teaching and admonishing based upon the authority of Christ (Colossians 3:16-17). Our teaching must be sound (Titus 2:1). We cannot teach some “other doctrine” (Galatians 1:6-9 and I Timothy 1:3-7).
2. They of old and even in the first century had divine help with the songs they sung (Psalms 1-150 and I Corinthians 14:15). We do not. We are studying the words of men, that have scriptural overtones, and trying to discern if they are right or wrong. We have failed many times in doing this. It is backwards to make a statement and then try to justify it as correct. We will find ourselves being like the Sadducees in such cases (Matthew 22:23-33). This is why I have ALWAYS hated studying songs to test them as right or wrong. I am not good at backwards studying. The only thing I know to do right is start with the truth and speak from that. Trying to prove a statement already made, by men at that, leads to many dangerous roads.
3. The statement “Only Thou are holy” (page 1 of our songs books here in El Paso) puts us in conflict with the Scriptures. When we first studying the song we considered it in light of Revelation 15. The problem is not what is written there, but that it is us speaking it today. The statement in Revelation 15:4 is in a context wherein angels appear in a vision (remember how unclear visions are to begin with - II Corinthians 12:1-10) harping in Heaven and singing the song of Moses and of the Lamb. That may have been a time wherein deity was the only one holy in comparison to man. What if we are saying that TODAY? The song has no Scriptural context or backdrop to study from.
4. Aren't we commanded to be holy (Luke 1:74-75, II Corinthians 6:14-7:1, Ephesians 1:3-4, Ephesians 4:24, Ephesians 5:27, Colossians 3:12, I Thessalonians 4:7, Hebrews 12:14, I Peter 1:13-16, I John 3:1-3, and Revelation 22:11)? So what are we saying about ourselves to the people sitting about us when we declare that only God is holy? If we aren't holy can we even be worshipping Him (I Corinthians 11:23-32)? This is not a question of Revelation 15:4, as we have used that verse in the past to justify this song. This is a question of what WE are saying TODAY.
5. We have to repent of this for it is a form of ignorant worship and making a false statement to each other (Acts 17:22-31; 18:24-28). We have sung it since 2007 in ignorance, though not willful, still sinful. What can we learn from this?