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**ARRANGING TO SERVE YOUR
CONGREGATION: REHEARSING THE
RIGHT THINGS FOR THE RIGHT REASONS**

I. Introduction

Why don't our rehearsals always produce good results?

II. The Right Reasons

A. To exalt the greatness and goodness of God (Ps. 34:1-3)

1. A gospel mindset seek to make God's works and worthiness big.
2. A performance mindset seeks to make human planning, ability, skill, and execution big.

B. To enable the Word of Christ to dwell in people richly. (Col. 3:16)

1. A gospel mindset realizes we'll never be able to adequately communicate the glory of Christ.
2. A performance mindset thinks Jesus looks better because of our contribution.

C. To encounter the presence of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:7; Eph. 5:18-19)

1. A gospel mindset is full of expectation for how the Holy Spirit will move in people's hearts.
2. A performance mindset thinks success is a well-executed plan.

D. To edify the church. (1 Cor. 14:26; 2 Cor. 3:18)

1. A gospel mindset seeks spiritual change.
2. A performance mindset seeks emotional gratification.

III. The Right Things

A. Pursue undistracting excellence.

"Excellence is the process of becoming better than I once was. I am not to become better than someone else is or even like someone else. Excelling is simply--and radically--the process of improving over yesterday." Harold Best

We will try to sing and play and pray and preach in such a way that people's attention will not be diverted from the substance by shoddy ministry nor by excessive finesse, elegance, or refinement. Natural, undistracting excellence will let the truth and beauty of God shine through. We will invest in equipment good enough to be undistracting in transmitting heartfelt truth. (<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-unites-us-in-worship-at-bethlehem>)

B. Make sure you're engaged.

1. Love the gospel.
2. Love God's word.
3. Love God's people.
4. Know your songs.

C. Make sure your team is engaged.

1. Encourage them.
2. Involve them.
3. Review the lyrics
4. Regularly remind band members why we do what we do (reasons just mentioned)

D. Make sure everyone can hear.

- E. Prioritize your congregation.
 - 1. Variety in arranging
 - 2. Pull instruments out, you and others
 - 3. Dynamics
 - 4. Leave space
 - 5. Volume of mix
 - 6. Proper keys and ranges
 - 7. A cappella
- F. Establish primary instrument (if there is one).
 - 1. May change for different parts of the song
 - 2. Usually responsible for intros and outros.
 - 3. Makes flexibility easier.
- G. Establish feel (if there is one).
 - 1. Not all songs require a strong drum presence.
 - 2. All players should be aware of and play with the feel.
- H. Remember your context
 - 1. Who you're serving
 - 2. The occasion
 - 3. Surrounding elements
- I. Maximize time by prioritizing rehearsal points.
 - 1. Beginnings and endings
 - 2. Transitions in and between songs
 - 3. Specific songs.
- J. Look out during rehearsal.

- K. Practice Spontaneity.
 - 1. change things up in rehearsal
 - 2. stretch out at times
 - 3. make sure you have time to be spontaneous

- L. Review – each song as you go and at the end.

- M. At the end, play a portion of the first song one more time.