

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Is this song doctrinally sound?**

**Is this song doctrinally sound? - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/3/25 19:13**

This morning I read a post by a dear struggling Christian who stated: "God showed me so much last night, i have been drowning in self-pity". ([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic\\_id28067&forum44](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id28067&forum44)) Holly Rejoices She was full of joy because she had repented and was clean. Thank God!

I have felt for many years that many of the problems plaguing Christians today have to do with a lot of the music that modern Christians listen to.

Below I have copied a popular modern "Christian" song.

Do you believe that it is doctrinally correct, or could it be that such songs promote the defeated "self pity syndrome" that many Christians suffer?

According to Paris Reidhead, secular humanism teaches that the end of all being is the happiness of man, whereas; the true Biblical concept teaches that the end of all being is the glory of God. I agree with brother Reidhead.

What about this song? Is it Biblically correct? To me it paints a picture of a universe where man is the center, and every thing revolves around him, and he is the most important issue in the universe.

How do you see it?

He's Watching Me  
By Gaither Vocal Band

He has Jupiter for a pillow,  
an angel choir for a lullaby,  
clouds for a blanket,  
and the moon is his night light.  
But he don't ever sleep,  
'cause he's busy watching over me.  
He rules the universe, from his throne on high.  
But when I need attention, he is by my side,  
He's watching me. Yes, he's watching me.

He's a busy God but on his list of things to do,  
his number one priority is watching me and you.  
He's taking care of business, feeding birds and making rain.  
But he'll stop what he's doing when I speak his name.  
Cause he's watching, he's watching me.

He might be busy painting rainbows,  
or making demons flee.  
But he'll still find the time to make some time for you and me.  
There's nothing, no no nothing, he would rather do.  
Well he knows when I'm in trouble, he don't miss a beat.  
One eye's on that sparrow and the other one's on me,  
He's watching me. Yes, he's watching me.

He's a busy God but on his list of things to do,  
his number one priority is watching me and you.  
He's taking care of business, feeding birds and making rain.  
But he'll stop what he's doing when I speak his name.  
He's a busy God but on his list of things to do,

his number one priority is watching me and you.  
He's taking care of business, feeding birds and making rain.  
But he'll stop what he's doing when I speak his name.  
Cause he's watching, he's watching me. Yes he's watching, he's watching me.  
Well, he's watching, he's watching me.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syiVTxFb0WE>

**Re: Is this song doctrinally sound?, on: 2009/3/25 19:35**

That song made me sick - sorry - but it made GOD seems as "human" as Santa Claus.

*"But he'll stop what he's doing when I speak his name."*

HE never needs to stop doing anything to do something else - HE's omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent - and ALWAYS "with us".

All the words in this song humanizes HIM.

I don't mind songs like - "His Eye is on the sparrow" --- but this one has made GOD puny.

Yes, it made me sick.

**Re: - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2009/3/25 19:49**

Eh, I wouldn't want to sing it.

I think singing psalms with a metrical psalter would be much more beneficial, as well as doctrinally infallible.

With care in Christ,  
Taylor

**Re: Is this song doctrinally sound?, on: 2009/3/25 19:58**

UGH!!

Sounds like they are singing a song about Zeus more than about God.

We can't equate man's busyness with God's work. God is not busy. He just speaks the word and it's done.

There are a lot of songs out there in the name of Christian that is irritating. Like "Take this message to the otherside", given to a person that was dying. Why can't you just pray to the LORD yourself and give Him your message, the song tells me that we can't talk to our heavenly Father at all, that we need to find someone who is dying to give them a message to give to God. Foolishness, garbage, hellish.

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2009/3/25 20:49**

I prefer these types of songs:

Lord, I am vile, conceived in sin,  
And born unholy and unclean;  
Sprung from the man whose guilty fall  
Corrupts the race, and taints us all.

Soon as we draw our infant breath,  
The seeds of sin grow up for death;  
Thy law demands a perfect heart,  
But we're defiled in every part.

Great God, create my heart anew,  
And form my spirit pure and true;  
O make me wise betimes to spy  
My danger and my remedy.

Behold, I fall before Thy face;  
My only refuge is Thy grace;  
No outward forms can make me clean;  
The leprosy lies deep within.

No bleeding bird, nor bleeding beast,  
Nor hyssop branch, nor sprinkling priest,  
Nor running brook, nor flood, nor sea,  
Can wash the dismal stain away.

Jesus, my God, Thy blood alone  
Hath power sufficient to atone;  
Thy blood can make me white as snow;  
No Jewish types could cleanse me so.

While guilt disturbs and breaks my peace,  
Nor flesh nor soul hath rest or ease;  
Lord, let me hear Thy pardoning voice,  
And make my broken bones rejoice.

- Isaac Watts, 1719

**Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2009/3/25 21:01**

I personally don't care for the song you mentioned here. My favorite song is this one: Will you Follow Me?

If you want to be a follower of mine

You must leave self behind

You must take up your cross and come with Me

If you fear for your own safety, you are lost

But take up your cross

For My sake and you will find true life

Chorus:

Will you follow Me?

It will cost more than you think

Can you drink the cup that I drink?

Will you follow Me?

Will you follow Me?

A servant only shares the portion of his Lord

You can be assured

Men will hate you as they've hated Me

The time is coming when they'll think they do

God's will by killing you

But he who's faithful to the end is saved

(chorus)

Living water welling up from deep within

Forgiveness of your sin

The tree of life to eat from as you wish

A hundred times more than you'll ever lose

My gift to those who choose

To reject the trinkets of this world

2nd Chorus:

Will you follow Me?

More blessings for those who believe

Than you even can conceive!

Will you follow Me?

Will you follow Me?

**Re: - posted by wayneman (), on: 2009/3/25 21:16**

Eternal Light! Eternal Light!  
How pure the soul must be,  
when, placed within Thy searching sight,  
it shrinks not, but with calm delight  
can live and look on Thee.

The spirits that surround Thy throne  
may bear the burning bliss,  
but that is surely theirs alone,  
since they have never, never known  
a fallen world like this.

Yet how shall I whose native sphere  
is dark, whose mind is dim,  
before the Ineffable appear  
and on my naked spirit bear  
the uncreated beam?

There is a way for man to rise  
to that sublime abode:

An offering, a sacrifice,  
a Holy Spirit's energies,  
an Advocate with God.

These, these prepare us for the sight  
of Holiness above:  
The sons of ignorance and night  
may behold the Eternal Light  
through the Eternal Love.

James Binney

They don't write 'em like that anymore.

**Re: - posted by theopenlife, on: 2009/3/25 21:55**

Paul, that Isaac Watts song is so full of goodness.

It's hard to "instruct one another" through songs if the lyrics are an inch deep, or worse, outright erroneous. Like, "His number one priority is watching me and you."

Someone must have missed the memo, "He does all things for His glory."

This includes making and saving humans,

"Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and **whom I have created for My glory.**" Isa. 43:7

**Re: Is this song doctrinally sound? - posted by thanatos (), on: 2009/3/25 22:06**

YUCK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! its just your usual humanistic fluff disguised as the gospel.

**Re: - posted by Dawn10379 (), on: 2009/3/25 22:43**

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**Re: - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/3/26 0:12**

Dawn,

I hope that you didn't think that my purpose for presenting the question was to bash one of your favorite songs. I hope to remain loyal to the description of this forum: ("Test everything, Hold on to the good." - 1 Thess 5:21. Here you will find discussions on all different scriptures and theological positions. Please discuss with an spirit of edification not dissention or strife.). There was a time when I liked the song too, but I hadn't stopped to examine it. I know many people who like the song, and like songs like it. It can give you an "emotional high" if you let it, but the very reason that I presented the question was to examine what this emotionally exhilarating song is actually doing to the inside of you.

Take, for example, the song that brother Paul presented. You could say that it might "make you feel like dirt", but it is ONLY when we realize that we are nothing but dirt that the seeds of God's Word can grow in us and eventually produce fruit. If we aren't softened by that reality, then we are like the hard beaten path, or the stony ground, or the thorny ground. We can never become anything that brings glory to God.

Thanks so much for ALL of the great songs on this thread. Songs that spotlight tiny aspects of God's unfathomable infinite greatness while confessing our absolute nothingness bring glory to God, and put man in his proper perspective. Dust thou art. Morally, physically, spiritually and in every way we are dirt and filth! If we allow God to throw His good seed into us, and something good grows from it, the only goodness will be that which God put there. When God's goodness grows up in us and covers us, the dirt is no longer seen, yet we remain soft-hearted enough that we live with the realization that we are mere dirt.

Dawn, it is my prayer that you and others will realize the danger of "feeding" on such songs as this. This song has given you a concept of God that is not really true to the God of the Bible. WHAT WILL YOU DO if next month God's wrath

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h falls on your beloved country, and everything gets "out of control". If persecutors arrive at your door, drag you out in your yard, strip you, and torture you until you die a painful death, will you then think that God has forsaken you? Will you die thinking that He must not exist because He didn't drop what He was doing and stop the marauders?

Dawn, ever day (God bless their hearts) Christians in other countries face similar trauma. You can read about it on this website: (<http://www.persecution.org/suffering/index.php>) VOM PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE examine what you are listening to. Such songs will be like the rocks beneath your soil. When the sun comes out and scorches your life, your roots will not be deep enough to stand the test. I have seen it too many times. God calls us to examine ourselves, and to examine the fruit of the "trees" that call themselves ministers: Matt 7:15-20.

Thanks theopenlife for the scripture Isa. 43:7 and commentary which clarifies the whole issue. God's number one priority is made very clear in that verse. So true, Jesus-is-God: "HE never needs to stop doing anything to do something else - HE's omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent - and ALWAYS "with us". All the words in this song humanizes HIM."

Thanks for your input

**Re: , on: 2009/3/26 8:29**

If nothing else, this Gaither song chips away at God's attributes. He is omniscient, He's omnipresent... etc etc. Therefore He doesn't need to stop what He's doing to pay attention to me... He is the ultimate multi-tasker!

This is nothing more than a trite Sunday schoolish song designed to get the audience clapping. I don't think Gaither is intentionally trying to propagate false doctrine, and I do hope that he is more doctrinally sound than this song suggests.

I'm not a fan of Gaither or southern gospel. Just don't like it. Grew up hearing it in relatives homes... it was George Jones and drinking/cheating songs all week, and southern gospel on Sunday. I saw first hand the hypocrisy of some who perform southern gospel. It just turned me off completely.

Of course, that is not to say that all in southern gospel are like that. I know there are very sincere people in southern gospel. Just explaining why I don't care for it myself.

Krispy

**Re: , on: 2009/3/26 10:09**

Quote:

-----It figures I would own a CD that everyone here calls humanistic and evil...I happen to really like that song.

-----

:-P

I don't like it, but if you like it that is certainly your preference. There is a lot of Christian music out there that I simply don't care for, and some of it can be anointed with all the right words etc., but it just doesn't fancy me. However, I have seen others who listen to it and get blessed.

There are songs in the old song book that are not scriptural. Here is one:

"They searched through heaven and found a saviour". Who was the "they" and why did they need to do a search? God told Adam and Eve that Christ would come. No search was needed, God knew the solution before the problem began.

The problem is that we are wooed by the tune. The words don't mean anything any more, it's the tune the rhythm, it makes us feel good.

For example there are some music in the world that have a great tune, we know it's the world but the tune is alluring. For example, "Hold on tight to your dreams" by ELO, that has such a great message and the tune is melodious, but it's still the world.

**Re: Is this song doctrinally sound? - posted by White\_Stone (), on: 2009/3/26 10:21**

"He might be busy painting rainbows,  
or making demons flee."

What are they thinking? They must have been desperate to fill out an album and took anything that sounded like a 'God' song.

Give me the old hymns, Holy, Holy Holy (a wonderful song of praise, great for singing in the early morning) and What a Friend we have in Jesus (carried with me on 4 x 6 cards, can't tell you the comfort I have received just reading 1/2 a verse when at the eye doctor on Monday).

So, Yes, I agree with you, today's so called 'Christian' music is depressing. There is no Gospel in it, no wonder it is depressing. How can you be Spirit filled from the image of God the Gaither Vocal Band paints? Sounds more like a Fairy from a child's book.

Give me the songs sung by the old paths. The straight and narrow path!

Regards,  
white stone

**metrical psalter - posted by White\_Stone (), on: 2009/3/26 10:37**

Hello Taylor,

You have now hooked me on this. I have to get a book like that of the whole Bible.

What a marvelous thing, I wonder why it is not brought out to view? Let us sing Psalms, now I see how it could be done. Amazing.

white stone

**Re: metrical psalter - posted by TaylorOtwell (), on: 2009/3/26 11:14**

Hi WhiteStone,

There are several quality Psalters available.

A search for "The Comprehensive Psalter" should turn up some results - it is published by Blue Banner Books.

"Psalms of David For Singing" is also good. It is published by Crown and Covenant Publications.

The Comprehensive Psalter is primarily in common metre for easy singing. I think the majority of the Psalter is basically a reprint of the 1650 Scottish Psalter.

I personally own both of these Psalters and recommend both.

Thankfully, a family has recorded 50 common metre tunes while singing the first few lines of the first 50 psalms, so you can learn a lot that way, and interchange them how you like. Also, both of the psalters I listed contain the music, just as a hymnal would. I will include the link at the bottom.

I don't say this to cause a stir, but just to present a historical fact. In the historic Reformed churches, psalms were actually sung **exclusively**. The singing of the words of men was considered improper for corporate worship. They only sang infallible songs. This is actually still the practice of many conservative Reformed Presbyterian churches. They viewed "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" to refer to the name distinctions given to the psalms in the Book of Psalms.

Given the choice of singing the words of God or singing the words of man, I choose the words of God.

50 Psalm Tunes: <https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=11801194222>

Crown and Covenant Publications: <http://www.crownandcovenant.com/>

Comprehensive Psalter:  
<http://www.fpcr.org/catalog/catalog-online.htm>

Scottish Metrical Psalter Online (Free): [http://www.cgmusic.com/workshop/smp\\_frame.htm](http://www.cgmusic.com/workshop/smp_frame.htm)

With care in Christ,  
Taylor

**Re: - posted by White\_Stone (), on: 2009/3/26 11:29**

Dear Brother Taylor,

Thank you for the links.

white stone

**Re: Is this song doctrinally sound?, on: 2009/3/26 12:05**

I say this as one who loves Jesus, who loves God, born a Jew, saved by Grace, leaning on Faith, believeing in the Promise, fearing aand revering God, but this thread just breaks my heart.

"Lorddoitagain", why would you even deign to make such a post? You had your answer, you knew your answer, so why ask the question? To recieve a chorus of "yes" and "amens" from fellow saints as they heap scorn on an artist expressing his love for God as he is led to?

Who are any of you to judge the love another "broken clay jar" expresses to God?

Personally I've never heard of the Gaither Vocal Band, I read the words of the song, its just, in their words, expressing joy at the fact that God loves them. What is wrong with that?

answer me this: God made us in His image, Adam and Eve's rebellion in the garden brought sin and death into the world. Yet God had Mercy, God sent His Son Jesus in love, to atone for us, the final Pascal Lamb, God loves us, and we are all human, all too human, but God loves us, so God loves humans, that's us, so is God "humanistic"? Oh! I KNOW God is Holy, God is omnipresent, Above all and sovereign, but some of you use framing words, such as "humanism" just like razors to cut and wound others.

answer me this, **How does this thread bring Glory to God?**

Lorddoitagian, I respect with total love your freedom to express your opinion, but how does this edify the Body of Christ..  
..forget about the word "Christian" for a moment, but you expressed this opinion:

Quote:  
-----I have felt for many years that many of the problems plaguing Christians today have to do with a lot of the music that modern Christi  
ans listen to.  
-----

That's the problem plaguing many Christians? The "music" they listen to? The problem plaguing the Body of Christ, His Church is the absolute utter lack of unity, the hard-hearted pharisaicism and eagerness to cast judgement and scorn am  
ongst one another, hearts grown cold and dead supping on "doctrine", and using theo- factions to battle one another, the  
readiness to stand in the public square and POINT THE FINGER and proclaim, "heretick!"

Your tongue's, that tiny "rudder" in your mouths, that can set a forest on fire, THAT is the problem plaguing many "Christi



ans" today, just tearing apart the Church, even to the point of making the word "evangelical" a framing word, secularists use to buttress the hypocrisy of what passes for Christianity.

and what comes from the tongue, emanates from the heart, and a heart yielded up to Christ, says , "Lord Thy will be done". It doesn't say:

Quote:

-----That song made me sick - sorry - but it made GOD seem as "human" as Santa Claus

-----

Quote:

-----Yes, it made me sick.

-----

Quote:

-----UGH!!.....Foolishness, garbage, hellish.

-----

or I ask brother Paul West, who I love in the Lord, when you extol a song written by Isaac Watts in 1719 that says:

Quote:

-----Jesus, my God, Thy blood alone

Hath power sufficient to atone;

Thy blood can make me white as snow;

No Jewish types could cleanse me so.

-----

"Jewish types"? Paul, I read how many believers "love" the Jews, many ministries formed precisely to preach the Gospel the Good News to the Jewish people, but as probably the only Jewish follower of Jesus on this forum, (if there's others, speak up) how do you think I feel when I read that rhetoric? Knowing the blood soaked history of my kinsmen who suffered and were murdered at the hands of "christians" thruout the centuries, who would kill Jews with these words on their lips, "kill a Jew for Jesus", thru the "holy roman empire", thru the crusades, thru the steppes of russia, lead by the latter poisonous rhetoric of martin luther, gathered and slaughtered by a demon hitler and his hellish legions, all the while being given spiritual covering by the "official" german lutheran "church" and their clergy, given cover by that man of perdition the pope in rome, the vatican being the first to officially recognize diplomatically the nazi regime of hitler.

### **"Jewish types"?**

That's the Sweet Incense of Jesus that is draw the Jewish people to jealousy? to repentance? to proclaim, "Messiah is come and His name is Jesus"? That's the witness?

WAKE UP! 2,000 years of "church history" and its the rebellion and hard-heartedness alone of the Jewish people that has kept them from recognizing Jesus as Messiah?

The devil is cunning and evil for it is also the innate hatred and wickedness and deceit of the human heart among some of those, especially many clergy and laity that just outright plain hate Jews, that has kept my kinsmen in bondage.

What have you all done that would bring ANY Jew into jealousy of so "great a salvation"? Embarking on threads like this ? or other threads, the constant revolving divisive debates about "marriage/divorce", "Cal/Arm", "KJV-only-ism"?

and then finally, one sister, who happens to like this song is told by you, "Lorddoitagain":

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Quote:  
-----I hope that you didn't think that my purpose for presenting the question was to bash one of your favorite songs. I hope to remain loyal to the description of this forum: ("Test everything, Hold on to the good." - 1 Thess 5:21. Here you will find discussions on all different scriptures and theological positions. Please discuss with an spirit of edification not dissention or strife.).  
-----

The spirit with which you wrote that is clean, praiseworthy and good. Yes! "Test everything", but test it with Whom? Other "clay vessels", who's third post on this forum reads:

Quote:  
-----YUCK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! its just your usual humanistic fluff disguised as the gospel.  
-----

That is discussion? Edifying? Sans a spirit of dissension and strife? or to post a hymn that speaks of "Jewish types"?

Many can, and I'm sure will accuse me of a spirit of dissension and strife, but brother, early this morning I had a joyous time with the Lord, digging into Isaiah 52 to 62, reading and eating from the Word, how that great prophet foretold the coming of Messiah, and in the hope that I would find some edifying nugget on this forum, I stumbled onto this very thread, which has just left me broken hearted.

This has been a long time in brewing on this forum. I do so enjoy when saints testify to miracles, praise reports, prayer requests, expressions of fervent Love of God, but when the "opinions" of mere men rear their ugly heads, as when a pastor is excoriated for appearing on a network news show to counter secularists, and said pastor is slandered, something is very very wrong here. Search your hearts, as I am searching mine.

In Jesus' love, neil

**Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2009/3/26 12:11**

Hi Neil,

For what it's worth, the phrase "Jewish types" wasn't meant as a derogatory reference to Jewish people but was referring to Old Testament Christological "types"; those parts of Jewish scripture and religious practice that serve as specific and uncanny foreshadows pointing to the living Messiah. (the antitype.) Watts was echoing Paul when he said "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."

So, there is nothing back-handed to Jewish people in the lyrics of Watt's song, nor in Paul's West decision to include it here.

MC

**Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2009/3/26 12:57**

[http://www.rhapsody.com/player?type=track&id=tra.24289189&remote=false&page=&pageregion=&guid=&from=&hasrhapx=false&\\_\\_pcode=](http://www.rhapsody.com/player?type=track&id=tra.24289189&remote=false&page=&pageregion=&guid=&from=&hasrhapx=false&__pcode=)

Try this one on for size; To me this stands up to any old hymn that has been written, of which I love also.,

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In Christ: Phillip

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Is this song doctrinally sound?**

**Re: , on: 2009/3/26 13:04**

Why are we spending so much time discussing a silly little song? C'mon people...

Krispy

**Re: Doctrine & Focus , on: 2009/3/26 16:09**

We're discussing "music" and I believe that Lordoitagain has hit on a vital issue in The Church.

Lucifer was in charge of "music", so to speak, before his fall - in his fallen state, he Knows the Power of melody, rythem and lyrics - for sure.

Music "sticks" in the head, even the words, though we may be unconscious of them.

IF a song is Not "Scirptually sound" - then we are exposing our spirits to "false doctrine."

If anyone wants to live on a steady diet of unsound doctrine, that is there perogative - but I know from the testimonies of those being Persecuted, Tortured or having any form of brain damage - that "music" from GOD's Word has gotten them through - very much so.

Yes, the "words" are very very important.

And as Lordoitagain posted elsewhere - it 'is' true that most of today's music centers on Self.

I think Lordoitagain has done us a great service.

It's not just "this one song" that's the topic and I Thank Lordoitagain for bringing this issue forward for our minds/spirits.

**Re: - posted by White\_Stone (), on: 2009/3/26 17:40**

Quote:

-----IF a song is Not "Scirptually sound" - then we are exposing our spirits to "false doctrine."  
-----

**AMEN!**

**Re: Doctrine & Focus - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/3/26 18:54**

Jesus-is-God,

Although I don't know my heart, as stated in Jer. 17:9-10, I hope that your description of my motive for this post is what God sees. It grieves me when I read reports from the mission field <http://www.joshuaproject.net/> that nearly 2 billion people have still not heard the message of God's salvation. I remember reading from Hudson Taylor's works about a Chinese man who asked him: "and how long has your people known about Jesus?" When he told him "for several hundred years", he said "my dad died after spending his whole life searching in several religions for what you have now given to me . . . and you are just now bringing it to us?"

Subtle "me centered" theology that is woven into our songs takes our focus off of declaring His glory among the heathen Psalms 96:3 and keeps us worried about our personal feelings.

With the dosage of the gospel that America alone has been exposed to, and with the resources that we have available,

we should have already declared His glory to ALL the heathen! Instead of praying for laborers to be sent into the harvest . . . we are busy praying for God to keep our moods in an up-swing, HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY because otherwise, we feel defeated in this "all about me" gospel that Brother Reidhead describes in "10 shekels and a shirt".

**Re: - posted by Lorddoitagain (), on: 2009/3/26 19:23**

Neil,

I will try to answer some of your questions to me if I can. I realize that not all of your frustration was for me, but for some who replied to this post. I cannot answer for them, but as I stated to Jesus-is-God, I hope that my motives are as he described them, although God is the only One who knows motives Jer. 17:9-10.

Quote:  
-----"Lorddoitagain", why would you even deign to make such a post? You had your answer, you knew your answer, so why ask the question? To receive a chorus of "yes" and "amens" from fellow saints as they heap scorn on an artist expressing his love for God as he is led to?  
-----

I am accustomed to reading discussions on SI that are FILLED with Bible references. I hoped to get more Bible feedback than opinion. One brother brought up:

Quote:  
-----"Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory." Isa. 43:7  
-----

which supports the concepts that Paris Reidhead outlined in "10 Shekels and a Shirt" regarding humanism and its leaving of our Christian concepts in this modern world.

Have you ever heard Brother Reidhead's message? If so, you might more fully understand my concern about "me centered" theology in our music.

Quote:  
-----That's the problem plaguing many Christians? The "music" they listen to?  
-----

I feel that many of the problems have to do with the music . . . but that is not the only one. Any form of communication (singing, preaching, drama, writing, etc.) that communicates the leaven that Jesus told us to beware of Matthew 16:11 should be avoided. Notice: he said the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. They represented two extremes of theology: "legalism", and "live as you please for tomorrow we die". You may think that this forum leans toward Phariseism because we "prove all things", but if you notice on the discussions, both types of error are questioned on this forum.

I'm on my way to a church service in Spanish . . . but I have more to share. Brother I LOVE God's people the Jews. As a child someone gifted me a cassette of songs from "Jews for Jesus", and it was almost the only music that I listened to for many years.

I am so sorry for what others have done under the banner "Christian" against God's chosen people Israel, but I can't change that. I hope that you can find it in your heart to forgive. I have had to forgive terrible things against myself . . . but I've never known such slaughter against my own kinsmen as you have. I will be praying for your heart to heal in regards to those terrible atrocities.

Sincerely,

Michael Strickland

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2009/3/26 19:51

Hi everyone,

Some things in the words of the song reminded me of Deuteronomy 32:10, Ps 17:8, and Zechariah 2:8.

It seems to me that there is at least a twofold sense of the word truth as it may apply here: one, in the sense of the soundness of the words that are sung and two in the sense of the honesty of the one singing.

I was reminded of a story that Pastor Wurmbrand tells in one of the messages available here. I might get some of these details wrong so please keep that in mind, but as I remember it, he was sharing about visiting in a home with someone from a congregation that he either spoke at or attended for some reason, and at some point he asks them for their hymnbook so that they could sing. When the man replied that they did not have one he asked him 'then why did you lie?'.  
The man asked him what he was talking about, and he recalled how in the worship they had sung 'O for a thousand tongues to sing' and he said to him, 'why did you lie; if you only sing praises to God once a week then one tongue is more than enough'.

It seems to me that God could be offended as much with truthful words sung dishonestly as anything else.

Or that He even could be more pleased with simple, but less doctrinally full words, that are sung with a heart full of faith and love towards Him.

It seems to me also that words rich in doctrine **can** have a hardening effect on the heart if they are sung out of obligation, repetition, ritual form and tradition.

I suppose too that among the many resources that we have in America are millions and millions of Hymnbooks.

Some of you may know that I began as a Christian at an Apostolic Pentecostal Church. We didn't have any hymnbooks and most of the songs that were sung were sung from memory. They were usually very simple and easy to remember. But they were also very easy to sing with all the heart.

One of my favorites was like this:

Order my steps in Your Word dear Lord

Lead me

Guide me

Every Day

Send Your anointing Father I pray

Order my steps in Your Word.

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2009/3/26 22:15**

Quote:

-----how do you think I feel when I read that rhetoric?  
-----

Rhetoric? In a Watts hymn? I hardly think so.

**Re: , on: 2009/3/27 10:11**

Quote:

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Lordoitagain wrote:  
Jesus-is-God,

Although I don't know my heart, as stated in Jer. 17:9-10, I hope that your description of my motive for this post is what God sees. It grieves me when I read reports from the mission field <http://www.joshuaproject.net/> that nearly 2 billion people have still not heard the message of God's salvation. I remember reading from Hudson Taylor's works about a Chinese man who asked him: "and how long has your people known about Jesus?" When he told him "for several hundred years", he said "my dad died after spending his whole life searching in several religions for what you have now given to me . . . and you are just now bringing it to us?"

Subtle "me centered" theology that is woven into our songs takes our focus off of declaring His glory among the heathen Psalms 96:3 and keeps us worried about our personal feelings.

With the dosage of the gospel that America alone has been exposed to, and with the resources that we have available, we should have already declared His glory to ALL the heathen! Instead of praying for laborers to be sent into the harvest . . . we are busy praying for God to keep our moods in an up-swing, HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY because otherwise, we feel defeated in this "all about me" gospel that Brother Reidhead describes in "10 shekels and a shirt".

Amen! GOD Bless you.

**Re: - posted by run2win, on: 2009/3/27 16:33**

Amen to Compton's post. Well put, brother.

Watts's hymn is lovely, indeed. It exalts Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was once invited to partake of a Passover seder with a messianic Jewish family, and that was a great example of the use of "types" or "shadows" of the substance of Christ; the shadows or types of Christ are everywhere found in the Old Testament.

The gospel was given to the Jew first. I thank God that He made room for me among the children of Abraham through the blood of Christ.

In addition to what Compton shared from Hebrews, Rom 5:14 and Heb 11:19 and Col2:17 contain the use of the word "figure" or "type" or "shadow" (depending upon your translation) in the sense of what Watts was conveying in his hymn.

May we sharpen one another as iron sharpens iron. This was altogether a good thread in that sense.

Grace and peace.

**Re: Music in the mind - posted by Lordoitagain (), on: 2009/3/27 20:10**

Jesus-is-God wrote:

Quote:  
-----If anyone wants to live on a steady diet of unsound doctrine, that is their prerogative - but I know from the testimonies of those being Persecuted, Tortured or having any form of brain damage - that "music" from GOD's Word has gotten them through - very much so.  
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Brother, my mom worked and ministered in a nursing home for many years. Often, they had patients whose minds were so "far gone" with dementia that they couldn't even talk. Those same patients would attend a church service in the activity room, and when old familiar songs were being sung, they would join in and sing with the rest of them.

We will not understand all about it until we get on the other side, but somehow music is a very important thing for us while on this journey home. As stated in Col 3:16, it is a method that God commands us to use to teach and admonish. The ministry of teaching is one of the 5 gifts to the church in Eph 4:11.

One of the reasons for the great success of the Methodist movement is that while John Wesley was preaching the message, Charles Wesley was busy teaching the message (our 2-fold Great commission Matt 28:19 & Mark 16:15) in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

To me, the command in Col 3:16 mirrors the Old Testament command in Deut. 6:6-7. With the advent of modern technology, many people are constantly hearing music. With that constant teaching, what are we engraving on our hearts? "Man-centered" theology? I hope not!!!

I agree whole-heartedly with the comments on the hymn "Lord, I Am Vile, Conceived In Sin". Does anyone know of a link to a recording of it? I didn't find the music played on cyber-hymnal.

I believe that I "understand where you're coming from, ChrisJD:

Quote:  
-----It seems to me that God could be offended as much with truthful words sung dishonestly as anything else. Or that He even could be more pleased with simple, but less doctrinally full words, that are sung with a heart full of faith and love towards Him.  
-----

I believe that there is a need for all kinds of songs . . . the deep, doctrinally packed ones, and the more simple ones . . . as long as there is not leaven in the message. Some have need of milk while others are eating solid meat.

I agree, wayneman:

Quote:  
-----They don't write 'em like that anymore.  
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It is a sad truth, but if you think about the generation that we live in now . . . most modern people don't have the attention span nor the intellect to digest such songs. A "TV raised" generation is accustomed to fast action . . . jumping from one thing to another . . . never "slowing down" enough to digest a deep subject. We who were taught in public schools in America were subjected to a system which some believe has purposefully "dumbed down" this generation. In order to fully grasp such songs, we'd have to get a dictionary out.

Yet, while many in our generation don't even "have a clue" of the depths of treasures that the older generation enjoyed . . . billions on our planet have never heard the simple gospel message that Jesus the Son of God died to take away our sins.

We have a lot to pray about!

**Re: Is this song doctrinally sound?, on: 2009/3/27 22:33**

The song would be ok if it was scriptural. "The Moon is His night light"?, come on. Our God doesn't sleep and there is no shadow of turning with Him, therefore there is no night, and He is far above the Heavens and has no need for these beggarly elements of the Sun and Moon. These people are being paid to sing. This is their livelihood to entertain you. And if you buy their CD's, their job is complete.

I like Bill and Gloria Gaither. They contributed a lot of the songs that we sing in church today. But there are songs that are questionable. And it's our right to question them.

**Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2009/3/28 12:10**

Hi again everyone,

I wanted to share something else with you all.

Neil had suggested this,

"...some of you use framing words, such as "humanism" just like razors to cut and wound others."

I think that is something that we should consider. I think also that it is possible for us to become extreme in the positions that we take and that we can become unecessarily harsh in our judgments of whatever does not go far enough to what we are holding, and even cruel to those that do not follow it.

I thought of the Pharisees that rejected and reviled the man that was born blind after the Lord Jesus had restored his sight - on the sabbath day.

Yes, we have need of being zealous for the glory of God, and for truth. But too, we have need of compassion and of being tenderhearted to one another. And of patience and carefulness in our judgments.

I don't mean to say that any of this pertains to any of you, but I hope it will be alright to offer these things to consider also .

There is a great variety of life, and emotion, expressed in the scripture. Count the number of times we read 'I' or 'me' or 'my' in the 23rd Psalm. But we would not say that David was a humanist or saying that man was the ultimate measure of things. But he does say that God is his Shepherd.

Of course God does not need a night light, but He did give the moon to us as one(Gen 1:14-17.)

He doesn't need Jupiter for a pillow, but He doesn't have wings for us to shelter under either(Ps 17:8).



**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Is this song doctrinally sound?**

God wouldn't have need of jewelery or gold(Mal 3:17). And could it even be imagined that God would sing over us(Zeph 3:17)?

I don't mean to share these things to make a defence for this song. But I hope that it will be alright to consider these things also.

Wish you all well,

Chris