

# CHURCH HYMNAL

Songs For The Church



(A MINISTRY OF KINGDOM AIMED FOREVER MEDIA 2021)

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REVOLUTION TWELVE CHURCH

# HYMN SING: 3

A Ministry of: KINGDOM AIMED  
FOREVER MEDIA

*By John Foster, Jr.*

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# Hymn Sing

WEEK 1

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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A teaching supplement for singing sacred songs. To be utilized in the Church of Christ, in the Christian Home and in the solitude of godly worship and prayer.

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Kingdom Aimed Forever Media

*I usually make a hymn weekly and sometimes it cost me so much thought and study that I hardly do anything else.*

*From the Diary of John Newton- (July 7, 1774)*

## Prologue

Once we recognize that God is always at work within us, waiting to reveal unto us a new song of Heaven, then we finally find that there is truly no more uplifting, affirming, or transforming place to be than in His presence. Whatever our circumstance, God is able as the great composer and conductor of life, to tune the instruments of our lives to ring out the joys of Heaven. But we must take our seat before Him if we are to see the majesty and wonder by which He is even now is conducting so beautiful an arrangement!

*“1 O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.2 The Lord hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.3 He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

*4 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.5 Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.6 With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.7 Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.8 Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together9 Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.” - Psalm 98*

## Chapter 3

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**I**n Hebrews 13:7-17 we are told,

“7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs are composed together into a new song to be sung by the people of God through the sanctifying work of the musical academy of: Theology, Doctrine and Transformation. Or you may say: Study, Understanding, and Testimony. Where does such academy exist? It exist before the Lord, in the lives of each and every child of God. One might prefer to liken it less to an academy and more to a music factory, where God uses His Spirit, His Word and His children to daily create new songs of Praises before Him as all of Heaven rejoices and His glorious testimony is made known throughout all nations and all of the Heavens.

This is a grace gift of God, that we are the instruments of God's praise and our praise song is set in motion with the newness of every morning. In this grace gift we are made able to give to God a praise that is right and pleasing unto Him, and made able to know the joyous effect that the praise of God has upon the lives of His children.

It has been said that music or song has the ability to carry us away. That is to say that music can take us in our mind and hearts to a different place. Music can do this so powerfully that it actually changes our outlook on our current place. However, being carried in our minds and hearts to a different place is not always a good thing and thus, it doesn't always produce good fruit in our lives. Just because a song or a message takes us to a new place or a place that we have not yet been or paints a new and exciting picture doesn't mean that it is good or true.

That is the warning in Hebrews 13. We are in the music factory of God, enrolled in His music academy, being used by Him to create a new song. We must remember in this that we are instruments created and disciplined to glorify the unchanging God and declare His immutability with a “new song.” As this is the case, how is it that the factory is kept to operate in its proper form, or the academy to keep its order that we might participate in the joyous creation of the glorious song of God in our lives? Hebrews 13 speaks upon three areas (theology/study, doctrine/understanding, transformation/testimony) that help us answer that question:

**1. Theology/Study:** Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

No music is ever made without first a devotion to study. To study is to literally set or fix your mind upon a subject. As the beloved of God who declare God as our beloved, we set our minds or center our study upon God. Thus “theology” or the study of God. When Hebrews 13 calls us to remember those who have rule over the brethren, it is a call not to remember men, but as we keep reading it is a call to remember the teachings or study of the Word of God (*given by the Spirit through human instruments*). It is a call to remember it from start to finish, from the revelation of their proclamation, to the transformation made evident in their application. The start of this, the preservation and endurance of this in your life is found in remembrance. It is in the setting to your mind or study of the word of God.



We now observe that the hymn writer, the psalmist, and the writer of spiritual songs does not begin with nor speak from the origination of personal experience nor present “feelings” or “emotions”. Neither do the writers begin with the aim to conjure up “feelings” or “emotions” in another. The eternal depth of true song is that the writer understands themselves as merely and instrument and they sit before God and before His Word to learn the song of praise that He orchestrates upon their hearts and minds.

**2. Doctrine/Understanding:** 8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. 9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

There is a point in the student musicians life when they begin to see the teaching or the forming of to object of study. This is when the eyes of the student are opened as for the first time. Yet, being opened for the first time, when something is truly being grasped and truth truly taken root, there becomes a familiarity with it whereby it actually becomes engrafted upon the student, or rather it begins to engraft the student to the world of newly discovered truths before them. Here is the understanding of the “new song”. It is not that a “new” truth has been created, but that the student has had their eyes opened to a fixed truth that previously they did not know or did not understand with the same level of depth. The doctrine of Jesus Christ is accessible, immutable and inexhaustible. This means that the refreshing waters of Heaven’s song are able to reach the

youngest, the doctrine will not change throughout the generations, and it will never be exhausted whereby even the most well educated will still awaken each morning with a new song to be found!

The danger or obstacle facing the musician (*which I use as a reference hear for all of the beloved of God*) is not that they will run out of study, but that they will be distracted and led astray from study. When led astray one begins to entertain another song and destructive practices for their instruments. To put it another way, the musician loses their place in the heavenly orchestra when they begin to play a different song rather than a new song. When I say lose, I am speaking as when a musician loses their place within a song. If you or I begin to play a different song or entertain different usages for our instruments then we will no longer be playing in harmony with the orchestra of Heaven. Other doctrines or teachings are all around us. Many are colorful (divers) seemingly offering varieties of pleasantries or self accomplishments or exciting fields of study, but they all develop a different song which carries us astray. The song of God - the study of God and the doctrines of Christ don't carry us away from truth and unity together, but rather carry us deeper and develop within our song a more full and abundance of beauty. Thus our song is established upon the single tone of matchless beauty which comes forth from God unto us. It is the tone of grace and that grace being grace alone played forth from or coming through the string of Christ's faithfulness.

There is nothing else that we carry into this song. Nowhere is the Christians song, a song a song of self. No, in

the song of God, in participating in the Heavenly choir or the orchestra of God, we joyously loose self to hear and be a part of the fullness of that great new song.

**3. Transformation/Testimony** 15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.<sup>16</sup> But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.<sup>17</sup> Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

By keeping to the right subject of study, and having the depths of good doctrine continually rehearsed in our lives, we undergo a transformation whereby our profession strikes new chords echoing a greater understanding which previously we did not know that we possessed. As such we along with all of the beloved of God, daily participate in the new song of God. It is a song always looking forward to eternity’s shore, where we will all together sing on that day, A NEW SONG!

This work and spiritual discipline of study, and faithfulness unto true doctrine is what has transformed saints of old and supplied through their instruments wonderful songs of the faith that we still love to sing today. The story “behind” the songs of the faith lead us not to the personhood of the saint themselves, but to the source of their doctrine, the subject of their study, and the anchor of their faith which is their song.

One such example of this is the Hymn: “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”, by Isaac Watts. Issac Watts lived from 1794-1872 and wrote many hymns. Issac Watts longed to hear that unified new song of God which he recognized as lacking in the church of His day. Because of this he started writing new hymns each week. His Hymn, “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross” was originally written for a communion service that he was to lead in 1707.

The concept or image painted in Watts, “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross” gives us a clear picture of the process that we have been discussing.

Watts had a certain challenge in his day that he brought before the throne of God to find his proper steps. In Watts day it was not the norm to write hymns that were not the direct reciting of scripture. The challenge was that this led to a passive reciting of words rather than a people setting their minds upon God by studying the Word of God. Watts seeing the Word of God as alive in the soul and meant to be expressed as such is made rightfully evident in his hymns. It also makes, “When I Survey” one of the earliest hymns in the English language to use “I” in it. As such, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” is one of the oldest personal hymns.

The “I survey” in “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross” paints the description of Watt’s study. One must note that the “I” does not reference His feelings as his source of inspiration, but rather the I is referencing and acknowledging His study upon the special revelation of

God's Holy Word. His testimony is in recognition and agreement with the text as just as true to the saints today as it was in the day of Paul. He is studying the very same thing that scripture proclaims to be our source of study and the very doctrine of our faith. That doctrine is the cross of Christ, it is the doctrine of Christ our Lord. As such we see the testimony of Watts echoing the testimony of the Holy Spirit and the inspired revelational writings that were given to the apostle Paul, as well as recorded in the gospel of Matthew, Luke and John, just to name a few. One might say, that though Watts used the word "I" he would dare not bring his own revelation or his own creation into the church, but rather, "I" is used as an "amen" or an agreement of observation, understanding and thus transformation upon the soul. We see this very clearly as we walk through the verses of the hymn:

The Holy Spirit called Paul to pen this survey the cross:  
 "7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith..." - Philippians 3:7-9

This same finding is testified to by Watts in verse 1 of, "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross". The song is not different, it is not even detached from the scriptures nor its message attempted to be modernized to current culture.

Rather it is as though Watts now possess the scriptures, or we may say the scriptures possess Watts.

In verse two, Watts echoes the Spirit's testimony to the apostle Paul. We witness with Watts here a transformation upon our soul, by the words in the letter to the Galatians in chapter 6 when the spirit speaks of one boasting only in the cross of Christ.

Then in verse three we travel the depths of study with Watts into the gospels as we experience the revelation of the cross where sorrow and love converge together. Here we see thorns compose a crown of richness beyond measure.

In verse four, that great revelation of love which is found at the cross of Christ and proclaimed in verse three is described firstly in the greatness of its value and therefore the all encompassing fullness of life that it demands willingly and joyously from us.

The truth is, that as the beloved of God, if our study of God through His Word and the observation of His creation and the mindfulness of His doctrine does not produce the joyous song within us and ring out as the proclamation of our life, then we simply have not yet spent enough time in prayer room of study. One cannot "sightread" themselves out of suffering or grief. True lasting joy comes from remaining before the God alone. God is the orchestrator and conductor of the song of joy everlasting. Thus the Word of God declares: **"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms."** James 5:13

Are you afflicted? Then go before God and allow Him to restore the joyous music of Heaven to your soul. The instrument will never sing, which never knows the solitude of a practice room. But when that song has been restored to your heart and the melody of the love of God set again the song of joy upon your soul, then my friend record it with the pen and proclaim it to all. A song is made to be heard and joy is to be shared. Great is the gift of song which is composed upon you by God above. It rings in your soul with newness and connects you with all of His elect throughout history. Then, now, and forever we remain singing and abiding in His great heritage of love. - Amen.

## **EXERSISING UNDERSTANDING UNTO WORSHIP:**

### **I. UNDERSTANDING:**

1. How is our theology related to our study?
2. How is our doctrine related to our understanding?
3. How is our transformation related to our testimony?
4. How does a healthy theology, doctrine and transformation work to develop the song of God being the song of our lives?

### **II. READING:**

6. Read: Hebrews 13, Psalm 98, and Psalm 6
7. Write down some observations from your reading.
8. Read Philippians 3 and Galatians 6
9. Write down some observations from your reading.

### **HYMNOLOGY:**

10. Sing, "Psalm 98".
11. Sing, "Psalm 6" in L.M. and S.M. Discuss what you notice about the effects of the different meters.
12. Sing, "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross".



13. Discuss Isaac Watts approach to hymn writing. How does Issac Watts show both reverence and relevancy to the Word of God in his approach to hymn writing?

14. Discuss “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”. Go verse by verse through the hymn and highlight how and how often the words of the hymn point you back to a specific scripture.

## PSALM 98

10.10.11.11

*Lyons (O Worship The King)*

1 O SING TO THE LORD, A NEW SONG NOW SING.  
O SING TO THE LORD, ALL EARTH YOUR PRAISE BRING.  
2 O SING TO THE LORD AND GIVE PRAISE TO HIS NAME,  
AND DAY AFTER DAY HIS SALVATION PROCLAIM.

3 AMONG NATIONS ALL HIS GLORY DECLARE,  
HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS TO FOLK EVERYWHERE.  
4 FOR GREAT IS THE LORD AND MOST WORTHY OF PRAISE;  
HE IS TO BE FEARED ABOVE ALL GODS ALWAYS.

5 FOR ALL OF THE GODS OF NATIONS ARE VAIN,  
THE LORD MADE THE HEAV'NS, AND O'ER THEM DOES REIGN.  
6 BEFORE HIM ARE SPLENDOR AND GREAT MAJESTY,  
STRENGTH, GLORY ARE THERE IN HIS SANC-TU-AR-Y.

7 ASCRIBE TO THE LORD, O FAM'LIES OF EARTH,  
ASCRIBE TO THE LORD STRENGTH, GLORY, AND WORTH.  
8 ASCRIBE TO THE LORD GLORY DUE TO HIS NAME;  
BRING OFF'RINGS AND COME TO HIS COURTS; PRAISE PROCLAIM.

9 O WORSHIP THE LORD IN SPLENDOR OF ALL  
HIS HOLINESS; COME AND TREMBLE IN AWE.  
10 SAY UNTO THE NATIONS, "THE LORD ALONE REIGNS!"  
THE WORLD IS ESTABLISHED; IT FIRMLY REMAINS.

HE WILL JUDGE THE PEOPLES WITH EQUITY,  
11 LET HEAVENS REJOICE; LET EARTH JOYFUL BE.

LET SEAS ALL RESOUND AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM;  
 12 LET FIELDS ALL BE JOYOUS, WITH ALL THINGS IN THEM.

THEN ALL OF THE TREES WILL SING FORTH WITH JOY.  
 13 THEY'LL SING TO THE LORD; ALL PRAISE THEY'LL EMPLOY,  
 BECAUSE HE IS COMING, THE EARTH'S JUDGE TO BE—  
 HE'LL JUDGE EARTH, ALL PEOPLES, WITH TRUE EQUITY.

## PSALM 6

S.M.

*Southwell (Lord Jesus, Think On Me)*

1 LORD, DON'T REBUKE IN WRATH, OR TURN YOUR FACE FROM ME.

2 HAVE MERCY, LORD, FOR I AM FAINT, MY BONES IN AGONY.

3 O LORD, MY ANGUISHED SOUL, CRIES OUT, "HOW LONG; HOW  
 LONG?"

4 DELIVER ME, AND SAVE ME, LORD—YOUR LOVE REMAINS MY SONG.

5 NONE FROM THE GRAVE PRAISE YOU; REMEMBER YOU WHEN DEAD.

6 I GROAN ALL DAY, ALL NIGHT I WEEP, MY TEARS DO FLOOD MY BED.

7 MY EYES GROW WEAK WITH GRIEF; THEY FAIL DUE TO MY FOES.

8 DEPART FROM ME, YOU EVIL ONES! THE LORD HAS HEARD MY WOES.

9 THE LORD HAS HEARD MY CRY; ACCEPTS MY PRAYER WITH GRACE.

10 MY ENEMIES WILL BE DISMAYED, AND TURNED BACK IN DISGRACE.

## PSALM 6

L.M.

*Rockingham Old (When I Survey The Wondrous Cross)*

1 O LORD, IN ANGER DON'T REBUKE;  
IN WRATH, DON'T CHIDE OR TURN FROM ME.

2 HAVE MERCY, LORD, FOR I AM FAINT;  
MY BONES ARE IN GREAT AGONY.

3 COME HEAL ME, FOR MY ANGUISHED SOUL  
CRIES OUT, "HOW LONG, O LORD, HOW LONG?"

4 DELIVER ME, AND SAVE ME, LORD—  
YOUR STEADFAST LOVE REMAINS MY SONG.

5 NO ONE CAN PRAISE YOU FROM THE GRAVE;  
NOR MENTION YOU WHEN THEY ARE DEAD.

6 I GROAN ALL DAY, ALL NIGHT I WEEP;  
MY TEARS FLOW FREE AND FLOOD MY BED.

7 MY EYES GROW WEAK WITH SORROW AND  
THEY FAIL BECAUSE OF ALL MY FOES.

8 DEPART FROM ME, YOU EVIL ONES!  
THE LORD HAS HEARD MY CRIES AND WOES.

9 THE LORD IN MERCY HEARD MY CRY;  
RECEIVES MY PRAYER BEFORE HIS FACE.

10 MY ENEMIES WILL BE DISMAYED  
AND TURN BACK, SHAMED AND IN DISGRACE.

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

57

F C F Gm/BbF#°/A Gm F/C C F /

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the  
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the  
 3. See! from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor - row and  
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a

6 Bb/F F C7/Bb F/A C7/G F C F C F Gm/Bb F#°/A

Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ my God: All the vain things that  
 love flow - min - gled down! Did e'er such love and  
 pre - sent far too small: Love so a - maz - ing,

11 Gm F/C C F / C7 Dm7 Gm7/Bb C7 F

count but loss, And pour con-tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
 sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.