

Sinner, O Why So Thoughtless Grown?

Hymn Number 130 in the Lloyd Hymnal and 38t in the Sacred Harp

This hymn is attributed to have been derived from the text found in:

Eze 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Ezekiel 33 is God's commandment to the watchman set over the city and the consequences of giving the warning and not giving the warning. It also gives the consequences of those who heed, or don't heed, the cry of the watchman. The substance of it is, as seen in Ez 33:11, from which we can see that God plainly wants people to turn from sin, which leads to death, and turn to Him for life.

Lloyd Hymnal

130 L. M. A solemn warning.

- 1 SINNER, O why so thoughtless grown?
Why in such dreadful haste to die?
Daring to leap to worlds unknown,
Heedless against thy God to fly!
- 2 Wilt thou despise eternal fate,
Urged on by sin's delusive dreams?
Madly attempt th' infernal gate,
And force thy passage to the flames?
- 3 Stay, sinner, on the gospel plains;
Behold the God of love unfold
The glories of his dying pains,
For ever telling, yet untold.

God says, because I live, I want you to live. It gives me no pleasure to see you die. ***Lu 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.***

Thus, we see the warning of all three verses. However, in the 3rd verse we see there is the warning, given by the watchman, and if heeded the expectation of eternal life, seen in the last verse.

What does this hymn say to you? For myself it says;

- Why do you give so much attention to things that are of no life/soul saving value, and spend so little time thinking upon things that have lifesaving value.
- Are you really so foolish, to think that you can save yourself, and to let your mind be consumed by foolish thoughts? What are foolish thoughts? Scripture defines the fool as one who does not believe in God. One, who does not believe in God, is one who trusts to their own works. They are declaring they don't trust in the finished work of Christ Jesus.

It also conveys the message to me, and brings to remembrance, that there is a gospel way.

- The gospel is the good news that there is a place of refuge, a haven of rest, in which we can have protection and deliverance from the enemy.
- That there is a way to escape eternal fate and flames
- Notice the warning to stay on the gospel plains. Why plains? The gospel plain is the narrow way that Christ has provided that deals saving grace to lost sinners, and places them all on the same plain of being saved by God's grace, equally. Unlike the broad way where men rise and fall in their own strength.

The hymn ends pointing us to the high cost of the gospel plain "***the glory of his dying pains***"

Reminding us that the gospel story of Christ is still being told "***For ever telling***"

And reminding us, the tongue of man cannot extol the magnitude of salvation by grace in a way that will make the story end. After all, Christ not only gave us salvation by grace, He also gave us eternal life and that is the unending story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

May God bless and keep us all in remembrance of his word of truth, Amen!

2020-06-28

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The oral message will a bit different as it is extemporaneous.