

WAY TO SHILOH

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Gospel Letter

Here's some Christian hymns which I hope will aid you in seeking and finding the One True God. Most of it was written hundreds of years ago. Fashions change, music changes, attitudes change, belief systems change, in fact you'd be hard pressed to find anything that doesn't change and yet God remains the same yesterday, today and forever. He is the same God who once deluged this planet with a worldwide flood and the same God who saved eight people from out of it. He is the same God who would save us from the flood of our own lives. When those drowning waters of sin come upon us Jesus Christ (equal with the Father, the Word who was God in John 1 who became a God-man) is the vessel that can save. He is the same God who must judge this planet again one day, but next time with unquenchable fire. If we have found favour through a contrite and repentant heart before God we shall escape those flames to come. I cannot express the message of the Gospel anyway near as well as those who wrote these solemn words:

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
Full of pity joined with power;
He is able,
He is willing; doubt no more.*

*Come, ye needy, come and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief, and true repentance,
Every grace that brings us nigh;
Without money,
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.*

*Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Bruised and ruined by the fall;
If you wait until you're better,
You will never come at all:
Not the righteous,
Sinners Jesus came to call.*

*Lo! The incarnate God ascended,
Pleads the merit of His blood:
Venture on Him, venture wholly,
Let no other trust intrude;
None but Jesus Can do helpless sinners good.*

*Saved and angels joined in concert,
Sing the praises of the Lamb;
While the blissful seats of Heaven
Sweetly echo with His name!
O such mercy!
Sinners here may sing the same.
Joseph Hart, 1712-68*

Seeking?

*Seek ye first, not earthly pleasure,
Fading joy and failing treasure;
But the love that knows no measure:
Seek this first*

*Seek ye first, not earth's aspirings,
Ceaseless longings, vain desirings;
But your precious soul's requirings:
Seek this first.*

*Seek ye first God's peace and blessing-
You have all if this possessing;
Come, your need and sin confessing:
Seek Him first*

*Seek Him first; then, when forgiven,
Pardoned, made an heir of Heaven,
Let your life to Him be given:
Seek this first*

*Seek this first: His promise trying-
It is sure, all need supplying.
Heavenly things-on Him relying-
Seek ye first.
Georgina Mary Taylor, 1871-1953*

Slaves of Satan-the unconverted

The fact that Satan's days are numbered is bad news for the wicked. Sinners at present have a merry time of it and seem to think it will go on forever. On any given day you can hear them laughing while Christ's disciples weep and mourn. They rustle by in their silks, while the saints shiver in rags. The devil is careful to gratify their sensuous nature, as a prince rewards his courtiers with pensions and preferments. 'Am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour?' Balak asked Balaam (Num. 22:37).

Oh it is strange – and yet not strange, considering man's degenerate nature- to see how Satan leads sinners by the nose with his gilded hook. Let him but bait it with honour, or wealth, or pleasure, and their hearts strain after it as eagerly as a fish for a worm. He can get them to sin for a morsel of bread. It happened to Demas, who forsook the gospel for the world's pleasures.

An evil heart is so eager to collect the bonuses, which the devil promises that it ignores the dreadful wages God threatens to pay for the same work. The men who fall into the devil's snare are those resolved to feast on the fruit of unrighteousness. How it glistens as it hangs on the tree of temptation. One bite, and you want more. But beware! Nothing Satan offers is free of his curse. His rewards are as contaminated as he is. They poison the souls of men (1 Tim. 6:9).

Would it not be wise, before you barter with the devil, to ask if his promises come with a warranty? Can he secure the bargain and keep you from lawsuit with God? Can he guarantee that when you die you will not be left destitute in another world? Let the buyer be warned. Time will show how Satan has cheated you. 'Oh, but I have already begun to collect on the pleasures he offers. I am enjoying them right now,' the sinner says. 'And I would have to wait until heaven for most of the things Christ promises.'

Sinner, you are right to say your pleasure is now, for you cannot be sure it will last for another moment. Your present happiness is going, and that of the saints, though future, is coming, never to end. Will you, like Esau for a gulp of soup and immediate gratification, part with the eternal inheritance of God's kingdom? What desperate madness makes sinners refuse a little hardship for the present? They foolishly choose to endure the eternal wrath of God hereafter in exchange for the short feast Satan spreads for them. If Satan keeps you royally entertained for a lifetime, what is that to eternity?

'The Christian in Complete Armour' -Puritan Classic by William Gurnall

One day we are all going to be shocked and say 'This really is happening'. On that day I want to be the Lords, I don't know about you. I never want to know the sort of terror associated when an unforgiven sinner is up against an angry GOD.

See here our misery by original sin; enslaved to Satan. Eph 11.2. Satan is said to work effectually in the children of disobedience. What a sad plague is it for a sinner to be at the will of the devil! Just like a slave, if the Turks bid him dig in the mines, hew in the quarries, tug at the oar, the slave must do it, he dare not refuse. If the devil bids a man lie or steal he does not refuse; and what is worse, he willingly obeys this tyrant. Other slaves are forced against their will: 'Israel sighed by, reason of their bondage,' Exod 11:23; But sinners are willing to be slaves, because of the meager food given them and lack of knowledge, they will not take their freedom; **THEY KISS THEIR FETTERS!**

'A Body of Divinity' Thomas Watson.

The devil would dearly love you to spend all your days occupied on selfish self-seeking, rather than running to God and falling on your knees in resignation to the fact that you can bring nothing to Him in your favour. The devil would have you waste all your days trying to be, this or that, for example with a woman, a 'femme fatal' or a 'strong independent woman' - a survivor (of all the rubbish the devil himself has put you through!) or a 'disco diva' dancing, drinking, shopping your life away. Advancing materially but leaping backward spiritually, having tunnel vision for family and friends, but no sight for God to guide or help you, and as a result being unable to control your own emotions, temptations, temper, honesty, greed, pride etc. The heart becomes more calloused and hardened by the year and your personality will pay the price- being damaged by broken dreams and a life not quite working out as you expected because you wrote God out of the plan, and He will frustrate your plans because you think you can make them without Him.

We cannot continue to stand in wide-eyed admiration of things that are in blatant contrast to the goodness which we know God demands. Whether it be promoted by the music industry, the TV, books, newspapers, advertising etc. If being seen in all the right places in all the right clothes speaking all the right words is more important to you than being seen in Gods house then you must start to ask yourself serious questions.

The Cost & the Scorn

15:18 If you are hated by the world, keep in mind that I was hated by the world before you. 15:19 If you were of the world, you would be loved by the world: but because you are not of the world, but I have taken you out of the world, you are hated by the world. JOHN 4:12 Dear brothers, do not be surprised, as if it was something strange, if your faith is tested as by fire: 4:13 But be glad that you are given a part in the pains of Christ; so that at the revelation of his glory you may have great joy. 1 PETER 3:3 Having first of all the knowledge that in the last days there will be men who, ruled by their evil desires, will make sport of holy things, 3:4 Saying, Where is the hope of his coming? From the death of the fathers till now everything has gone on as it was from the making of the world. 3:5 But in taking this view they put out of their minds the memory that in the old days there was a heaven, and an earth lifted out of the water and circled by water, by the word of God; 3:6 And that the world which then was came to an end through the overflowing of the waters. 3:7 But the present heaven and the present earth have been kept for destruction by fire, which is waiting for them on the day of the judging and destruction of evil men.

Yes if you find Christ you find a hard road, without God this straight narrow road would be much harder than a non-Christian's. But with God's help and comfort and joy given, well, it is not that bad. The trials will still be trials but we will rejoice and be content.

Religious Nutters & Fanatics?

It could be said that Christianity produces it's fair share of 'nutters', strange behaviour and so called fanatics. It is true that misguided believers, and people who are not, but just like the idea, go this road and shame the cause. But the same charge could be made about romantic love, but we would not stop seeking that or deny its importance just because a few act strangely as a result. Rather it proves the strength of feeling a life changing event can produce, and a desire to get this across to others. Sadly people can be rather naïve in their attempts to do this, but it does not follow, therefore, that the message is flawed just because the messengers are.

That MESSAGE one more time

1:27 And God made man in his image, in the image of God he made him: male and female he made them. 1:28 And God gave them his blessing and said to them, Be fertile and have increase, and make the earth full and be masters of it; be rulers over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing moving on the earth. 1:29 And God said, See, I have given you every plant producing seed, on the face of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit producing seed: they will be for your food: 1:30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and every living thing moving on the face of the earth I have given every green plant for food: and it was so. 1:31 And God saw everything which he had made and it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day

But in Genesis chapter 3, the serpent the devil came and deceived the woman Eve. She got her husband to eat the forbidden fruit. Hence man came under judgement. Suffering, hardship and death replaced the blessing, the peace, joy and friendship man enjoyed with God. Adam being a 'Pattern man' made the same grave mistake we all have in our sin and rebellion against God and His law. The law of sin and death came upon mankind and our natures took a fall into depravity.

But there is a GOOD NEWS. According to John:16 the Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever beliveth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." 3:17 God did not send his Son into the world to be judge of the world; he sent him so that the world might have salvation through him.

HOW CAN I BE SAVED THROUGH HIM- 3:3 Jesus said to him, Truly, I say to you, Without a new birth no man is able to see the kingdom of God.

HOW CAN I BE BORN AGAIN- 10:8 But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart: that is, the word of faith of which we are the preachers: 10:9 Because, if you say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and have faith in your heart that God has made him come back from the dead, you will have salvation: 10:10 For with the heart man has faith to get righteousness, and with the mouth he says that Jesus is Lord to get salvation.

IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO CONFESS JESUS?-Yes the Bible says in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" This is because of the sin of Adam and Eve, our fore-parents. Everyone is born into sin and judgment of God. Romans 6:23 For the reward of sin is death; but what God freely gives is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:12 For this reason, as through one man sin came into the world, and death because of sin, and so death came to all men, because all have done evil:

5:17 For, if by the wrongdoing of one, death was ruling through the one, much more will those to whom has come the wealth of grace and the giving of righteousness, be ruling in life through the one, even Jesus Christ.

I hope, you are convinced that God has given of Himself to save a people for His Glory, the Bible calls these ones 'The Elect' 'Christians' from every land and nation- Now I do not know if you are one of these chosen ones, but I know that if this message hits home then you are.

He sent His son Jesus Christ, to die on the cross to redeem you back to God. For you to be a blessing and not a curse.

You cannot be redeemed back to God, except through Jesus Christ. JOHN 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the true and living way: no one comes to the Father but by me.