

# 25.08.31 Notes

## #46 – Hymn Study (Stephen Zhu) – 25.08.31

After 20 min of food, gather people and have them introduce themselves and say what one of their favorite hymns is

### INTRO TO THE CLUB

- The mission of the Hymn Singing Club is to encourage Hillsdale College students to intentional, God-glorifying worship by studying, singing, and sharing hymns. We believe that true worship overflows from a grateful heart in response to the word of Christ (Colossians 3:16).
- Colossians 3:16 - *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*
  - Word of Christ dwelling in us richly → We respond by singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs out of thankfulness, and this is one way of teaching and admonishing each other.
- How does this inform our approach to hymns?
  - **Study** them to understand how they express biblical truths about God (teaching and admonishing), so that we are able to **sing** them from our hearts to God with thanksgiving and **share** the good news of the gospel that’s contained in them

### HYMN STUDY

- Newton’s life story (ask if people know anything about it)
  - Born in 1725, raised by a Christian mother who died when he was young
  - Became a godless sailor involved in the slave trade and indulged in a life of licentiousness and blasphemy. A brutal storm at sea in 1748 led to his conversion, but he continued in the slave trade until 1753
  - Became a pastor in 1764
    - *“I am unworthy of the high honour of speaking in his name, but if ever he permits me, grace, free grace, must be the substance of my discourse—to tell the world from my own experience, that there is mercy for blasphemers, for the most hardened, the most complicated wretches.”*
- Origin of the hymn:
  - Originally titled “Faith’s Review and Expectation” and had 6 verses; the version we’re familiar with omits the last 2 and adds 1 from a different unknown source
  - Accompanied a sermon he delivered on New Year’s 1773 on 1 Chronicles 17:16-17
    - *“I usually consider the first day of the new year as a point in life from which I may and ought to look both backwards and forwards: to review the path by which the Lord has led me thus far through this waste howling wilderness to prepare and arm myself for such duties and trials as may be yet before me, . . . and to seek strength and direction from him.”*
    - *“O Lord, accept my praise for all that is past, enable me to trust thee for all that’s to come” - Dec 31, 1772*
  - Look backwards in review at what God has done and forward in expectation of what He will do
    - This parallels the new school year for us

### READ HYMN

- Definition of grace: God’s freely given undeserved favor, which powerfully saves, preserves, and grows us as Christians
  - Rom 3:24 - *“We are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”*
  - Rom 11:6 - *“But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.”*
  - 2 Cor 9:8 - *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.”*
- Q: We’re going to read the hymn again, and with this definition of grace in mind, I want you to think about our discussion question: **According to the hymn, how is God’s grace displayed in a Christian’s life?**

## DISCUSSION

- Explain how “Faith’s Review and Expectation” is illustrated in 1 Chr 17:16-17

READ 1 Chr 17:16-17

- Context: David has said that he wants to build a house for God, but God says “No, I’m going to build a house for you. One of your descendants will have his kingdom and throne established forever by me.”
- David’s response acknowledges his unworthiness and God’s grace
  - “Who am I that you have brought me thus far?” → I am so unworthy of the grace you’ve shown me in preserving me up to this point
    - Looking backwards at all God has done
  - What God has already done pales in comparison to His promise of what He will do. His grace in the past gives us faith in His grace in the future.
- Looking at everything God has done for us in the past gives us faith that He will continue to give us the grace we need and will fulfill His future promises
- **Q: With all this in mind, let’s come back to the hymn. What reasons does it give for why God’s grace is so amazing?**
- The title helps us see the structure of hymn:
  - v1-2: God’s grace in saving him. His life story gives context to these words (Lost, blind, blasphemous wretch who did not fear God until He spoke into his life)
    - Grace in the past life of sin
  - v3-4: God’s grace in his life as a Christian, both past and future
    - Grace in the present life of a Christian in this world
  - v5-6: God’s grace in the promise of eternal life in fellowship with Him
    - Grace in the future life in heaven
  - Alternatively, v1-3 are grace’s past work (which we recognize as grace through our faith), and v4-6 are an expression of faith’s expectation in God’s promises based on the review of what He has done
- Hanging Q to end discussion: The new school year gives us an opportunity to look backward in review at what God has done and forward in expectation to what He will do. How have you seen Him demonstrate His grace in your life so far? How does reflecting on that give you faith for what He will do in the future?

Grace’s qualities

Grace’s work

Faith in God

Who we were/are

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.
5. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease:  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.
6. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.



46

# Amazing Grace

*The exceeding riches of His grace. Eph. 2:7*

John Newton; John P. Rees, v.5

8.6.8.6.

Trad. American Melody

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

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6. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.

7. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

## 1 Chronicles 17:16-17

*Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that **you have brought me thus far?** And this was a small thing in your eyes, O God. You have also spoken of your servant's house **for a great while to come**, and have shown me future generations, O Lord God!*

JESUS CHRIST

# 262 Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed?

Isaac Watts, 1707

MARTYRDOM  
CM

Hugh Wilson, 1824

1. A - las, and did my Sav-ior bleed, and did my Sov-'reign die?  
2. Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned up - on the tree?  
3. Well might the sun in dark-ness hide and shut his glo - ries in,  
4. Thus might I hide my blush-ing face while His dear cross ap - pears;  
5. But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay the debt of love I owe;

Would He de - vote that sa - cred head for such a worm as I?  
A - maz - ing pi - ty, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!  
when Christ the might-y Mak - er died for man the crea-ture's sin.  
dis - solve my heart in thank-ful - ness, and melt mine eyes in tears.  
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way; 'tis all that I can do.

## Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the **surpassing riches of His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

## 24.09.01 Notes

## #46 – Hymn Study (Stephen Zhu) – 24.09.01

### PRAYER

- The hymn we are studying today is probably *the* classic hymn of classic hymns: Amazing Grace. John Newton wrote this hymn in 6 stanzas in 1772 and published it in 1779. The last verse you see in most hymnals today is a verse added later by someone else. We'll be studying the original 6 stanzas today.

*QUESTION: Does anyone know the story behind this hymn?*

- Newton was born in 1725 and was raised by a religious mother. However, she died when he was young, and he became a godless sailor involved in the slave trade and indulged in a life of licentiousness and blasphemy. A brutal storm at sea in 1748 led to his conversion, but he relapsed several times and continued in the slave trade until 1753. A series of miraculous rescues and the knowledge of his own sin gave him an abiding sense of the amazing grace that God had shown him.
- Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." A hymn is thus more than just a standalone song; it is a *response* to Scripture. In a moment Hannah will read Ephesians 2:4-7. As she does so, think about how the words of Amazing Grace are a response to this passage.

*Hannah reads Eph 2:4-7*

- Now, I'm going to read the hymn. This time, think about the following question, and we'll share our thoughts on it afterwards.
  - QUESTION: The hymn's title is "Amazing Grace". According to the hymn, what is it that makes this grace so amazing?

*READ HYMN: Me.*

### DISCUSSION

- God shows His grace to us on a staggering scale. The hymn's structure reflects this: it is divided into 3 2-stanza sections, each of which shows another dimension of God's grace.
  - *St. 1-2: Salvation.* Newton recalls just how deeply sinful he was: he was a miserable wretch, lost and blinded by sin, fearful of God's judgment when he thought he would die—but God extended His grace even to someone like him.
    - "Even when we were dead in our trespasses" (v5)
    - "Rich in mercy", "Great love" (v4)
  - *St. 3-4: Grace in this life, both past and future.* God's grace is demonstrated in what He has done in the past ("Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far") and in what He will do ("He will my shield and portion be" + "Grace will lead me home").
    - 1 Chr 17:16-17 [READ]: "Thus far", "for a great while to come", "for future generations"
    - These are the verses Newton attached to the hymn when he published it. He also titled the hymn "Faith's review and expectation," showing how faith looks



backward in review at what God has already done and forwards in expectation at what He will do.

- David reviews what God has already done for him ("Thus far") and expects what God will do for him ("for a great while to come", "for future generations")
  - We can do this even more—we have the Bible, which tells us all that God has done for us and all that He will do for us in His promises in Scripture.
    - As we enter a new school year, we should think about everything God has done in our lives up to this point. Are we trusting in Him to guide us through this semester, this year, and the rest of our lives?
  - St. 5-6: *Grace everlasting in the life to come*. When we die, we will be united with God in eternity ("God will be forever mine"), a never-ending "life of joy and peace" that we never deserved.
    - "In the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace" (v7)
    - Rev 21 talks about how the old heaven and earth will pass away, but those who are saved will spend eternity dwelling together in fellowship with God.
- God's grace is truly amazing, yet we often take it for granted. We should take the words of this hymn and meditate on just how much God loves us and how unworthy we are of that love and let that motivate us to live our lives for Him alone.

SING Amazing Grace

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:10

- Not long before he died, Newton said, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior."

SING In Evil I Long Took Delight

## References:

[History of the hymn](#)

[Newton's story](#)

24.09.01 Sheet

# Amazing Grace

*The exceeding riches of His grace. Eph. 2:7*

John Newton; John P. Rees, v.5

8.6.8.6.

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And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
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3. The Lord has promised good to me,  
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He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
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5. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
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6. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine
7. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

## Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

<sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show **the immeasurable riches of his grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

## 1 Chronicles 17:16-17

<sup>16</sup> Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, “Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that **you have brought me thus far?**

<sup>17</sup> And this was a small thing in your eyes, O God. You have also spoken of your servant's house **for a great while to come**, and have shown me future generations, O Lord God!

## Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. **He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.** <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

## 1 Corinthians 15:10

But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, **though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.**

## In Evil Long I Took Delight

Christ Jesus came to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 1 Tim. 1:15

John Newton

8.6.8.6.

Hugh Wilson

1. In e - vil long I took de-light, Un-awed by shame or fear,  
Till a new ob - ject struck my sight, And stopped my wild ca - reer.

2 I saw One hanging on a tree,  
In agony and blood,  
Who fixed His languid eyes on me,  
As near His cross I stood.

3 Sure, never to my latest breath,  
Can I forget that look;  
It seemed to charge me with His death,  
Though not a word He spoke.

4 My conscience felt and owned the guilt,  
And plunged me in despair,  
I saw my sins His blood had spilt,  
And helped to nail Him there.

5 Alas! I knew not what I did;  
But now my tears are vain;  
Where shall my trembling soul be hid?  
For I the Lord have slain.

6 A second look He gave, which said,  
"I freely all forgive;  
This blood is for thy ransom paid;  
I die that thou mayst live."

7 Thus, while His death my sin displays  
In all its blackest hue,  
Such is the mystery of grace,  
It seals my pardon too.

8 With pleasing grief and mournful joy  
My spirit now is filled,  
That I should such a life destroy,  
Yet live by Him I killed.

**John Newton (1725-1807)**

John Newton's hymn, "*In Evil Long I Took Delight*," is one of the best autobiographical hymns written, describing both his objective and subjective experiences of salvation, which he found in Christ and in Him alone. Newton, a man conquered by God, describes himself as a miserable "wretch" hell-bent on a "wild career." Perhaps no individual in history can illustrate as well as John Newton how God can capture and transform a wild and sinful man, a rascal and a scoundrel, a slave trader who ran slaves from Africa to England, and engaged in many other crimes and sins of his day. But God saved him. He was converted in the midst of a tumultuous storm in the Atlantic when he thought he was doomed. He was transformed into a great preacher and a great hymn writer in England.

This hymn is the description of his own experience. The last line says, "*Yet I live by Him I killed.*" And live he did! Never again was he the same man. Ever after, he was totally changed from his wild and sinful past. For the last 43 years of his life he served the gospel in Olney and London. At the ripe old age of 82, Newton said, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior."

# 24.03.24 Notes

## #46 – Hymn Study (Hannah Wong) – 24.03.24

- INTRO (2:00)
  - I want to start today with a question that we were asked recently by the Collegian and by some others: *Why sing hymns specifically?*
  - As a board we came up with three main reasons:
    1. Hymn music is accessible—it was specifically intended for the whole congregation to worship together, not just the musically adept or those who already know the song.
    2. Hymns are often rich in Scripture—not that other songs are not, but hymns are, too, and so they are worth singing.
    3. Finally, the God we praise is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8). He works in the same ways, and, 2000 years after Christ, the gospel is still God's power to save (Rom 1:16)—hymns are a way to recognize this.
      - a. Plus, in the same way classic books are tried and true and help us step outside the blind spots of our time, so are hymns.

*QUESTION: That said, what do you guys think? Anything to add? Other thoughts?*

PRAYER

- READ
  - The hymn we are studying today is probably the classic hymn of classic hymns: Amazing Grace. John Newton wrote this hymn in 6 stanzas in 1779. The last verse you see in most hymnals today is a verse added later by someone else. We'll be studying the original 6 stanzas today.

*QUESTION: Before \_\_ reads the hymn does anyone have/know any stories surrounding this hymn?*

READ HYMN: \_\_

- I'm going to read the hymn one more time. This time I have a question for you to consider, and I am going to ask you to share afterward. But I will give y'all a minute to think about it after I finish reading.
  - Here's the question: In one sentence, what does this hymn say?

READ HYMN: *Me.*

ONE MINUTE CONSIDERATION.

*QUESTION: Well?*

- The hymn boils down to the first two words: "Amazing grace!" If we could just grasp those two words...
  - "Amazing"
    - I looked this up, and "amaze" is actually derived from "maze" - it means to be bewildered, astonished, astounded, surprised, struck with wonder, staggered. You're at a loss for words, unable to comprehend, stuck in a maze.
      - So what causes this?
  - "Grace"

*QUESTION: There are two main shifts in the poem. Where are they, and what are they shifting from and to?*

- Part 1 - salvation
- Part 2 - life on earth
- Part 3 - life eternal
- It's not just grace that saved me but also grace that sustains me and grace that will lead me home and grace that will be yet shown to me.

See Ephesians 1-2!!!

- WHAT IS GRACE
  - The two dominant things here are God himself and grace. How are those related?
    - Fundamentally, God's favor. Otherwise, what results from God's favor. charis and charisma
- all our hope and all our surety starts with Christ's salvation of us and from there we draw our assurance and strength to proceed and live the Christian life!

Romans + 1 Corinthians + 1 Peter

- we're going to sing "I stand amazed" It doesn't mention grace specifically, but grace encompasses all of that. That any of Christ work applies to us is grace: MY Savior's love for ME.

## Unused

- This is the verse John Newton published with "Amazing Grace": 1 Chronicles 17:16-17 *Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And this was a small thing in your eyes, O God. You have also spoken of your servant's house for a great while to come, and have shown me future generations, O LORD God!*
  - How does David's story relate?
- Tell John Newton's story.



24.03.24 Sheet

# 195 I Stand Amazed In The Presence

*They were all amazed and glorified God. Mark 2:12*

Charles H. Gabriel

8.7.8.7, with chorus

Charles H. Gabriel

1. I stand a-mazed in the pres-ence Of Je-sus the Naz-a-rene,  
And won-der how He could love me, A sin-ner con-demned, un-clean.

CHORUS

How mar-vel-ous! How won-der-ful! And my song shall ev-er be:  
How mar-vel-ous! How won-der-ful! Is my Sav-ior's love for me!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The chorus is clearly marked and includes a repeat sign.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2. For me it was in the garden,<br>He prayed: "Not my will, but Thine."<br>He had no tears for His own griefs,<br>But sweat-drops of blood for mine. | 4. He took my sins and my sorrows,<br>He made them His very own;<br>He bore the burden to Calv'ry<br>And suffered, and died alone.      |
| 3. In pity angels beheld Him,<br>And came from the world of light<br>To strengthen Him in the sorrows<br>He bore for my soul that night.             | 5. When with the ransomed in glory<br>His face I at last shall see,<br>'Twill be my joy through the ages<br>To sing of His love for me. |

# Amazing Grace

*The exceeding riches of His grace. Eph. 2:7*

John Newton; John P. Rees, v.5

8.6.8.6.

Trad. American Melody

1. A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,<br/>That saved a wretch like me!<br/>I once was lost, but now am found,<br/>Was blind, but now I see.</p>            | <p>4. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,<br/>I have already come;<br/>'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,<br/>And grace will lead me home.</p> |
| <p>2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,<br/>And grace my fears relieved;<br/>How precious did that grace appear<br/>The hour I first believed.</p>     | <p>5. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,<br/>and mortal life shall cease:<br/>I shall possess, within the veil,<br/>a life of joy and peace.</p>   |
| <p>3. The Lord has promised good to me,<br/>His Word my hope secures;<br/>He will my Shield and Portion be,<br/>As long as life endures.</p>                   | <p>6. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,<br/>The sun forbear to shine;<br/>But God, who called me here below,<br/>Will be forever mine</p>           |
| <p>7. When we've been there ten thousand years,<br/>Bright shining as the sun,<br/>We've no less days to sing God's praise<br/>Than when we'd first begun.</p> |  |

## Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the

great love with which he loved us,

even when we were dead in our

trespasses,

made us alive together with Christ—by grace

you have been saved—

and raised us up with him and seated us

with him in the heavenly places in

Christ Jesus,

so that in the coming ages he might show the

***immeasurable riches of his grace*** in

kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through

faith. And this is not your own doing;

it is the gift of God, not a result of

works, so that no one may boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in

Christ Jesus for good works, which

God prepared beforehand, that we

should walk in them.

## Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave

him up for us all, ***how will he not***

***also with him graciously give us all***

***things?***

## 1 Corinthians 15:10

But ***by the grace of God*** I am what I am,

and his grace toward me was not in

vain. On the contrary, I worked harder

than any of them, ***though it was not***

***I, but the grace of God that is with***

***me.***

## 1 Peter 5:10

And after you have suffered a little while, **the**

**God of all grace**, who has called you

to his eternal glory in Christ, will

himself restore, confirm, strengthen,

and establish you.

## I Love To Tell The Story

*I will declare what he hath done for my soul. Psa. 66:16*

Katherine Hankey

7.6.7.6.D. with chorus

William G. Fischer

1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove, Of

Je - sus and His glo - ry, Of Je - sus and His love. I love to tell the

sto - ry, Be - cause I know 'tis true; It sat - is - fies my long - ings As

CHORUS

noth - ing else can do. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'Twill be my theme in

glo - ry To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and His love.

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| 2. I love to tell the story,<br>More wonderful it seems<br>Than all the golden fancies<br>Of all our golden dreams;<br>I love to tell the story,<br>It did so much for me,<br>And that is just the reason<br>I tell it now to thee. | 3. I love to tell the story,<br>'Tis pleasant to repeat,<br>What seems each time I tell it<br>More wonderfully sweet;<br>I love to tell the story,<br>For some have never heard<br>The message of salvation<br>From God's own holy Word. | 4. I love to tell the story,<br>For those who know it best<br>Seem hungering and thirsting<br>To hear it like the rest;<br>And when in scenes of glory<br>I sing the new, new song,<br>'Twill be the old, old story<br>That I have loved so long. |
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