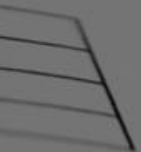


Sermons from Songs

Grace Greater than Our sins

#474, Hymns for Worship



Introduction

- This song was published around 1910 by Julia Johnston (1849-1919) in Illinois where she spent most of her life. She published many songs, this one being her best known.
- It was put to music by Daniel Towner, a known composer. He composed tunes to “Anywhere with Jesus”, “At Calvary”, “Trust and Obey”, etc.

Introduction

- This song is about the grace of God, a subject we ought to frequently consider
- Without grace there is no salvation. It is the “prime factor” in our salvation.
- Defined as “unmerited favor”
- The text this song is based upon is **Romans 5:20**, ...*But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,...*

Vs. 1 - God's marvelous grace

- *Marvelous grace of our loving Lord*
- Marvelous – based on *marvel* – something that produces wonder or amazement
- God's grace is wonderful.
Ephesians 2:4-9 , ...*By grace you have been saved,...*
1 Timothy 1:14 *speaks of the exceedingly abundant grace of our Lord*

Vs. 1 - God's marvelous grace

- *Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt*
- **Romans 5:20-21**, Paul is contrasting the consequences of the disobedience (offense) of Adam (death, sin, etc.) with the obedience of Christ. Jesus is God's greatest and consummate gift of grace to us (**vs. 15**)
- *But where sin abounds, God's grace abounds much more* –there is NO sin that cannot be forgiven.
- NOTE: This is NOT license to sin – **Rom. 6:1-4ff.**
“You put that old man of sin to death!”

Vs. 1 - God's marvelous grace

- *Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured...*
- **Luke 23:32-33**, mentions "Calvary" (the skull) as the place where Jesus was crucified.
- This is where God's grace culminated with access to forgiveness for each of us.
- **Romans 5:8, 3:23-24** – all have sinned, but we can be freely justified in Christ Jesus by His grace & love.

Vs. 1 - God's marvelous grace

- *There were the blood of the Lamb was shed*
- **John 1:29**, Jesus was called “the Lamb of God” that takes away sins.
- **John 1:14-17** – in Him we received “grace for grace
- **Matthew 26:26-28** – His blood was shed for the remission of our sins.
1 Peter 1:18-19 – we are redeemed by that precious blood.

Vs. 1 - God's marvelous grace

- *There were the blood of the Lamb was shed*
- NOTE: The original song said, "the blood of the Lamb was spilt" (including the Sacred Selections hymnal). Some have objected to this (hence the change) because spilt implies an accident.
- While that is the primary definition, the word can also mean an intentional act of pouring out. E.g., a spillway, blood that was spilled in battle. Webster – 2. To cause (blood) to be lost by wounding.
- The sacrifice of Jesus was intentional and voluntary – **John 10:17-18**. He shed His blood for us
- Either term is acceptable when properly understood.

Vs. 2 - Grace cleanses us

- *Dark is the stain that we cannot hide*
- Our sins are so terrible, it leaves a stain that we cannot remove.
- **Isaiah 1:18** – sins as scarlet, crimson
- **Isaiah 64:6** – our righteousness as filthy rags
- **Jeremiah 2:21-22** – your iniquity is marked.
You cannot wash it out.
- We CANNOT hide from God –
Psalms 139:7ff, Hebrews 4:13

Vs. 2 - Grace cleanses us

- *What can avail to wash it away?*
- We NEED our sins removed.
- Is there anything we can do OURSELVES to remove the stain? No!
- We search for the answer to forgiveness and mourn at our hopeless state without God
- **Cf. Revelation 5:1-6** – a scroll that none could open, except “the Lamb as though it had been slain”
- Without God we have no hope –
cf. Ephesians 2:12

Vs. 2 - Grace cleanses us

- *Look! There is flowing a crimson tide*
- Jesus is introduced as the Lamb that takes away our sins.
- The crimson (blood red) tide is the blood of Jesus - **Revelation 1:5**
- **Hebrews 9:13-14** – blood that once and for all cleanses us

Vs. 2 - Grace cleanses us

- *Whiter than snow you may be today*
- **Isaiah 1:18** again. His blood can totally remove the stains of our sins!
- **Psalm 51:7**, *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*
- **Revelation 7:13-14** – martyred saints who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Vs. 2 - Grace cleanses us

- *Whiter than snow you may be today*
- NOTE: In this let us not forget HOW our sins are washed away.
- **Acts 22:16**, *And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'*
- **Romans 6:3-4** – in baptism we come in contact with His death, burial and resurrection. Raised to walk in newness of life.
- This verse lets us know that regardless of our guilt – God CAN forgive us through His blood!

Vs. 3 - Grace freely given

- *Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace*
- More descriptions of how great His grace is.
NOTHING can compare to it for our forgiveness.
- **Ephesians 3:17-21**, we cannot comprehend the greatness of His love – which is experienced in His grace.

Vs. 3 - Grace freely given

- *Freely bestowed on all who believe*
- **Romans 6:23**, it is a gift from Him
(**Ephesians 2:8-9**)
Romans 5:15ff uses the description of a gift
- It is available to all – **Titus 2:11**
John 3:16 – whoever believes in Him...
2 Peter 3:9 – not willing that any should perish.

Vs. 3 - Grace freely given

- *You that are longing to see His face*
- Is it our genuine desire to depart and be with the Lord? **Philippians 1:21-23** – to live is Christ but to die is gain.
Philippians 3:8 – that I may gain Christ.
- **1 John 3:1-3** – we will be like Him. With this hope we purify ourselves.

Vs. 3 - Grace freely given

- *Will you this moment His grace receive?*
- **Ephesians 2:8** – God's grace (His part), our faith (our part) – cf. **Romans 10:9-10, Acts 2:38, 22:16.**
- **Hebrews 5:8-9** – He became the author of salvation to all who believe.
- *This moment* – IF you are not right with God, now is the time to take care of it – **2 Corinthians 6:2, Acts 22:16, 2:40, etc.**

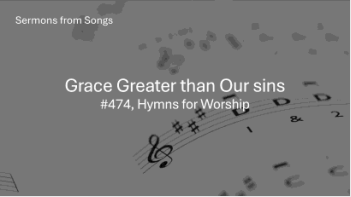
Chorus – grace that pardons

- *Grace, grace, God's grace*
- This is what we have been focusing on and REMINDING ourselves of
- *Grace that will pardon and cleanse within*
– this is not merely outward. This is purifying our hearts and souls – **1 Peter 1:22, Acts 15:9**
- **Romans 6:17** – we obey from the heart
- **Romans 12:1-2** – we are transformed renewing our minds

Chorus – grace that pardons

- *Grace, grace, God's grace*
- Repetition is good
- *Grace that is greater than all our sins*

This has been the emphasis of this song!



Concluding remarks

- In this song, we are reminded of how great the love, mercy and grace of God is.
- Far too many today see themselves as unworthy.
- In one sense, none of us is worthy.
- But that is NOT how God's grace works! Salvation is NOT based on our worthiness. IT is based on our willingness to believe Him & obey.
(Our faith and our faithfulness)
- IF He could forgive Paul (**1 Timothy 1:5**), he can forgive and save us too.

Concluding remarks

- And His grace continues even AFTER we obey the gospel.
- When we sin or drift back into the world. He will graciously take us back IF we repent and confess – **Acts 8:22, 1 John 1:9, 2:1-3**
 - This was written TO Christians!

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Are you walking in
His grace?