

THE GLORIOUS CROSS SONG THEOLOGY

2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Hebrews 1:3
By: Trevor McGee and Josh Hildebrandt

The cross is the centerpiece of God's redemptive story. It is a blazing beacon of hope to lost, confused, and broken sinners. The blazing center. We are to see the glory of Christ in all that we do, and in everything we are to see His value.

Over and over the Bible takes us back to the beauty of Christ. A beauty that only a good and sovereign God could rend from the tragedy of the cross. That's the thing that makes all of this so special and unique; that our God would take something we would have meant for ultimate evil (the cross) and worked it for our ultimate good.

The cross also creates something else from what should have been destruction. It creates worship in our hearts. Worship for the One who ordained the cross to be the sacrificial altar. Our Savior would come down from heaven to die on a cross, to pay the cost our sin demanded. We look back to the cross, designed for woe, sadness, and destruction. Instead, we see hope, glory, and salvation brought to God's people.

Song Break Down:

Verse 1 - Our predicament

This verse begins with man's condition before God. Man is under condemnation, born in sin, and without any hope to remedy his situation.

Verse 2 - God's solution

This verse begins with Christ who was condemned in our place. He bore the wrath of God that was due us.

Chorus - Our response to God's solution (Worship)

The Chorus declares the cross to be the center of God's redemptive plan, the blazing center. When we look to the cross we see Jesus, the suffering servant who takes away the sin of God's people.

Verse 3 - Our new life in Christ

This verse speaks to the work of redemption applied to a believer's life. Our condemnation has been removed, our debt is paid, and Christ is risen.

Bridge - Declaration of Worship

The bridge paints a picture of God the Father seated high on his throne, worthy of all glory.

Theological themes:

Salvation, Crucifixion, Imputation

NO LONGER CONDEMNED

Romans 8, Hebrews 4:16

By: Josh Hildebrandt

Condemnation kills worship. Hebrews 4:16 tells us to approach the throne of grace with confidence that we may find help in our time of need. Condemnation kills this confidence. Yet, Christians often live under the weight of their sins and failures. The message of the gospel tells us that we are free from this condemnation because Christ was condemned in our place. Ultimately when we embrace condemnation, we are not making a statement about our own worth but of Christ's. When you and I live under condemnation we are saying "Christ's finished work on the cross is not enough to cover my sins." We worship Him precisely because His work on Calvary was enough!

All who are "in Christ" have, at this very moment, no condemnation. What an incredible promise we have from God's word. There is nothing that destroys worship more in a believer's heart than condemnation. But to experience the joy of no condemnation, that compels worship.

No Longer Condemned is a song that was written to encourage the church to worship Christ freely and with confidence. Often times my freedom in corporate worship lies in how I feel I measured up the week before. When I do this, I miss the whole point of the Gospel. The anchor in the Christians life for "no condemnation" must be fixed on the finished, already done, work of Christ. It should not be set on our unfinished, yet to do daily accomplishments, good or bad.

We are free to worship God fully without any condemnation because Christ was condemned for us. When we worship God with this son-like confidence we honor the work of Christ on the cross.

Theological theme's:

Forgiveness, Condemnation, Justification

SANCTIFIED

Philippians 1:6
By Alicia Miller

This song was written a few short months after What Will My Answer Be from a sermon by Pastor Josh in October of 2015. Sanctification was the major theme of the message. During that message, I kept thinking of the verse Philippians 1:6 where it talks about how we can be confident that God, who began a good work in us at the moment of Salvation, will bring it to completion. I wanted this song to captivate that entire process from beginning to end.

Verse 1 starts with Salvation. It's a very black and white contrast: this is what and where we were and now this is what Christ has done.

Verse 2 is about the process of sanctification, and it is a process indeed. I wanted to emphasize the daily failures that we have and how quickly we can return to our old nature. The imagery of being comforted by broken chains was at the forefront of my mind. In my notes during that Sunday service I actually wrote those exact words down. I wanted to remind myself how easily I can fall back into slavery when I have been made free, but I also wanted to follow that up with a reminder of God's untiring work in my life. This led me to be reminded of the story of the Prodigal Son. He had strayed from his father, yet he was welcomed home with great rejoicing and clothed with his father's finest clothes. Christ paints such a beautiful picture through this story.

The last verse is about the completed process of Sanctification. We are finally complete in Christ. Sin, death, and darkness are defeated and we will never again stray.

The bridge is a simple reminder to the believer. The process of sanctification is a painful process. We are continually broken and rebuilt. Over and over we are re-shaped and re-molded more into the image of Christ. The simple words of the bridge are a reminder that even during this process God is good, and He will ultimately receive the glory.

Theological themes:

Sanctification, Justification, Glorification, Suffering

SAVED BY YOU

Ephesians 1:4-14, Titus 3:5, Colossians 2:13, Revelation 5:13, Hebrews 6:19
By: Josh Hildebrandt

Saved By You is a song about the sovereignty of God in salvation. Verse one deals with the free decision of God to save. Verse two deals with the power of God to save. The Chorus and Tag emphasize the security of our salvation because it is held by God. The sovereignty of God in salvation compels worship in the church. It roots our confidence before God not in our own fickle decision to love God, but in God's unwavering love for us, set on us before the foundation of the world. All boasting is removed when I see God as sovereign over my salvation. I know few men who have ever erupted in worship for a salvation only as secure as their decision. But show them a salvation as secure as God's decision, and they will have a reason to rejoice.

Theological theme's:

Soteriology, Election, Predestination, Security of the Believer

OH WHAT A MYSTERY

Colossians 2:2-4, 1 Peter 1:10-12

By: Josh Hildebrandt

Oh What a Mystery is a song that speaks to the treasury of riches hidden in Christ for believers. The rivers of grace, love, hope and peace found in Christ, ever-flow into the believer's heart. Such realities are hard to comprehend. Even the wisdom of the angels is baffled by such things as they long to look into the mysteries of Christ.

The song follows a simple pattern: each verse puts forth a "wondrous" truth as a mystery - this mystery then is "hidden in Christ" - and lastly is available to "those who believe."

The Mystery of Grace:

The mystery of God's grace is how He offers grace to undeserving sinners, while remaining holy and just in the process. This is only accomplished through the work of Christ on the Cross. This grace is given freely to all who believe in Christ. Romans 3:26

The Mystery of Love:

The love of God is incomprehensible. It is vast. It is deep. It is relentless. It conquers all.

The Mystery of Hope:

The mystery of hope for the believer is rooted in two things: past victory (the cross) and future glory (heaven). The people of God are eschatological people, that is we are people who are living for the age to come. That's where our hope lies and as such it can never be shaken. Our hope is anchored, forever secured beyond the veil.

The Mystery of Peace:

"Peace I leave with you" the words of our Lord and they are true! Even when all around us seems at war, the believer can know peace even then. That is the mystery of the peace of God. The peace that Christ leaves us is not based on the shifting comforts of this world, but on heavenly promises secured in Christ for every believer.

"In sum, since the rich store of all that is good resides in him [Christ], we must draw from him and from no other source. For there are those who, not content with him, shift restlessly from one hope to another; and though they continue perhaps to look mostly to him, they fail to follow the proper path because they direct some of their thoughts elsewhere. Even so, our minds can never entertain such feelings of distrust once we have truly experienced Christ's riches."

- John Calvin

Theological theme's:

Propitiation, Grace, Love, Hope, Peace,

WHAT WILL MY ANSWER BE

Ephesians 2:1-10

By: Alicia Miller

This song was inspired by a message given by one of our Pastors. The message was on Gospel Perspective. Coming from a traditional conservative background saturated with legalism and license, about four or so years ago my theology was drastically changed, placing focus off of self and onto Christ. I had to begin to look at the Gospel completely differently. I had to realize that my hope we found solely in the work of Christ and that there was nothing that I could do to earn His favor. This can be a scary place to be, because the background I grew up in gave a false sense of hope. A hope found in what I can do, not in what has already been done. As fleshly beings we can easily be drawn into this mindset, because it gives us more control. It allows us to see our eternity as something we can change based on the tangible things we do. Emphasis is taken off of trust and is placed on self. This view leads to doubt. This happens because we will always fall short of God's standards. We stop at the law, looking at the picture itself, instead of the person the picture is pointing us to: Christ. The sermon that day ended in Ephesians 2:1-10. This is such a beautiful scripture. It really captivates the essence of what I was trying to convey in What Will My Answer Be. The weight is found in the "BUT GOD." When writing this song that is what I wanted to shine through. When Satan tries to accuse us: "BUT GOD." When we are at the pinnacle of our lives, basking in victory: "BUT GOD." When we stand before the throne: "BUT GOD." We so often forget these two simple words, but they are so incredibly powerful. We have nothing but death and destruction apart from those two words. The song is simply a reminder that in all things, look to Him. Look to the cross in all seasons and circumstances, in all victories and in all defeat. He is our only rock and hope.

Theological theme's:

Forgiveness, Condemnation, Justification

SOVEREIGN SERVANT

Philippians 2:7, Romans 5:10, Galatians 3:13, Philippians 2:9-11

By: Josh Hildebrandt

There are many things that can elicit worship from God's people. Moments of worship often come upon us throughout our day. Moments we are not prepared for. For instance, in a moment of thankfulness, worship may rise up in your heart as you thank God as the giver of every good and perfect thing. In a moment of fear, you may turn to the God who will never leave nor forsake you. There are many things like this, in fact, every moment is a reason for worship. Nothing encourages the people of God to worship more than Jesus Christ. He is the fountainhead of all our worship. In fact, that thankfulness and security we mentioned above is only true worship when it is undergirded by a thankfulness for Christ and a security found only in Him.

The aim of "Sovereign Servant" is to give the church a song that displays the works of Christ (birth, life, death and resurrection). There are many songs that deal wonderfully with certain aspects of the works of Christ; however, not many deal holistically with them.

The title itself, "Sovereign Servant," is meant to capture the uniqueness of Christ. Sovereigns are served but Christ came, "not to be served but to serve."

Birth:

The birth of Jesus isn't just a cute story to tell our kids on Christmas morning, it's the most awe inspiring, staggering event to ever take place. The self-existent God took on human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ! - Philippians 2:5-11

Why Christ's birth compels my worship:

It's awe inspiring. It displays the deep love of God. Through the birth of Christ, we are enabled to relate to the humanity of Christ. As a man, Christ experienced everything that I experience—pain, hunger, fear, loneliness, etc., yet without sin.

Life:

Of these four areas (birth, death, life, and resurrection), life is perhaps the most overlooked. But it should not be! We are reconciled to God through His death but are saved by His life!

Why Christ's life compels my worship:

Because of the righteous life of Christ imputed to me, I can stand in confident before the throne of God in worship. It is through the life of Christ that I see the Father. - John 14:9.

Death:

Luke 6:23 tells us that the voices of men “prevailed,” insisting Christ be crucified. As men's voices prevailed, bringing upon themselves the darkest hour of all, God's voice prevailed even greater bringing about marvelous light, the salvation of His people. Why

Why Christ's death compels my worship:

We are reconciled to God through the death of Christ. It was on the cross that the faith which fuels my worship was purchased. My worship to God is secured at the cross and therefore my worship of God is primarily focused on the cross.

Resurrection:

The resurrection of Christ is the vindication of His life and death. If Christ had not been raised then his birth, life, and death would be of no value to us. But since He is raised, they are of infinite value.

Why Christ's resurrection compels my worship:

It proclaims the victory of God over sin and death. Death is defeated by Christ's resurrection and so areas of death in my life will not ultimately prevail.

Theological Theme's:

Christology, Hypostatic Union, Incarnation, Sinless Life of Christ, Imputation, Crucifixion, Resurrection