

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Introduction:

1. The lyrics of this song were written by Isaac Watts in 1707.
2. Watts was born in Southampton, England, on July 17, 1674.
 - a. He began studying Latin when he was four years old, later learning both Greek and Hebrew.
 - b. He was writing poetry by the age of seven.
 - c. He wrote his first hymn when he was 20 and eventually published over 800.
3. He died on November 25, 1748.
4. The most common melody for the song was composed by Lowell Mason (1792 – 1872) in 1824 – adapted from a Gregorian chant.
5. The message of the song is based upon Galatians 6:14.

Text: Galatians 6:14

I. I See My Sin and Smallness

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my Lord;
All the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to His blood.

- A. It was my sin that caused Jesus to endure the cross (Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:14-15; 9:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9).
- B. Though I fall short in comparison to Jesus, still He died for me (Psalm 119:176; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10-19; 5:6-8; 1 Peter 3:18).
- C. When I see my sin, I recognize my smallness – there is no place for pride (Galatians 6:14; Philippians 2:5-8; 3:3-11).

II. I See My Suffering Savior

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

His dying crimson, like a robe, Spreads o'er His body on the tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe, And all the globe is dead to me.

- A. The suffering of Jesus is described in detail in Scripture (Psalm 22:14-18; Isaiah 52:14; 53:5, 12; Luke 22:44; Matthew 26:67-68; 27:26-35).
- B. He suffered in sorrow because of His love for me (John 10:10-11, 17-18; Ephesians 5:2; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:24).
- C. When I see my suffering Savior, I become dead to the world and glory only in Him (Galatians 6:14).

III. I See My Sacrificial Service

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

- A. Since Jesus sacrificed Himself for me, I must be willing to sacrifice for Him (cf. Mark 10:21-22; 12:43-44; 14:3-5; 2 Timothy 4:10).
- B. My life must become a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 1:20-21; Galatians 2:20).
- C. When I see my sacrificial service, I realize that I must give my all!

Conclusion:

- 1. Each first day of the week we remember the death of Jesus as we partake of the Lord's Supper.
- 2. What do you see when you survey the wondrous cross?