

Rise Up, O Men Of God!

Introduction:

1. This song was written by William P. Merrill in 1911.
2. He was a Presbyterian preacher in Chicago during the heart of the Brotherhood Movement.
3. The editor of a Presbyterian periodical, *The Continent*, approached Merrill about the need for a song to motivate men in their Christian duties.
4. After reading an article titled "The Church of Strong Men," he began to ponder over this theme.
5. One Sunday while riding on a steamer across Lake Michigan to Chicago, "suddenly this hymn came up, almost without conscious thought or effort."
6. It has been sung to several tunes, but the most common is a composition from the 1870s by William Henry Walter called "Festal Song."
7. "Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?" (Psalm 94:16).

I. Who Will Answer the Call?

Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and mind and soul and strength
To serve the King of kings.

- A. Jesus offers the great invitation to all (Matthew 11:28-30).
- B. Yet, He demands that one count the cost before choosing to follow Him.
 1. Total devotion (Luke 14:25-33; Philippians 3:7-8)
 2. Singular focus (Luke 11:33-36; Philippians 3:13-14)
 3. Enduring faith (Luke 6:22; John 15:20)
 4. Sacrificial life (2 Corinthians 12:15; Revelation 12:11)
- C. To let go of the lesser and give oneself to a higher and greater cause is the epitome of maturity.
 1. It is the only way to succeed in life (John 10:4, 9-10).
 2. It is the only way to succeed in discipleship (Matthew 12:30-31).

II. Who Will Accept the Challenge?

Rise up, O men of God!
His kingdom tarries long;
Bring in the day of brotherhood
And end the night of wrong.

- A. William Merrill originally titled this song: "To the Brotherhood."
- B. The challenge was for men to embrace their roles in the kingdom of Christ to overcome evil through the brotherhood of the Gospel (Romans 12:21).

- C. The challenge continues in the present:
 1. To grow the kingdom of Jesus (John 3:3, 5; Acts 8:4, 12; 28:31)
 2. To grow the family of God (Matthew 12:50; 18:21-22; Philemon 1:15-16)
 3. To stand firm against wrong (Acts 7:23-25; Mark 6:18; Jude 1:3) {Cf. Exodus 32:26-28; Numbers 25:6-8; Ezekiel 22:30}
- D. “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).

III. Who Will Advance the Cause?

Rise up, O men of God!
The Church for you doth wait,
Her strength unequal to her task;
Rise up, and make her great!

- A. Advancing the cause of Christ involves evangelism (Mark 16:15-16).
- B. However, it also involves making the church the best it can be! (Cf. 2 Corinthians 8:2-5; Philippians 4:14-16; 1 Thes. 1:2-3, 8; 2 Thes. 1:3-4)
- C. Thus, each Christian must be the best disciple he can be!
 1. Use his talents (Matthew 25:14-30).
 2. Grow his talents.
 3. Mature his talents (2 Samuel 24:24).
- D. The church is waiting for men to live and lead as they should!

IV. Who Will Announce the Cross?

Lift high the cross of Christ!
Tread where His feet have trod;
As brothers of the Son of man,
Rise up, O men of God!

- A. The cross is the drawing power of the Gospel (John 12:32-33).
- B. Who will have the courage to preach it? (1 Corinthians 1:18-24)
- C. Who will have the boldness to walk in the footsteps of Jesus? (1 Peter 2:21-24)
- D. Who will have the conviction to live as a brother of the Savior? (Hebrews 2:11; Revelation 22:17)
- E. Rise up, O men of God!

Conclusion: Amen.

“Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it” (Jeremiah 5:1).