

Do We Mean What We Sing

Joe Slater

My friend and brother, Tom Barton, made a shocking statement a few years ago at the Old Paths Men's Retreat. "More lies are told while singing than at any other time!" I wish he had been wrong, but if you think about it, you see he was right on target.

Tom was talking, of course, about Christians, not folks in the world. While worldlings may lie routinely about anything and everything, Christians at least try to be honest. But what about our singing? Do we mean what we sing?

Brother Barton's assigned topic was "We'll Work 'Til Jesus Comes." Will we? Really? Some of us can't drag ourselves to the assembly on anything like a regular basis; and Biblically, that's not even work! What are the odds that we're doing anything that could be styled even remotely as "work"?

But that's just one of many songs I ask whether we take seriously. "If Jesus Goes With Me, I'll Go Anywhere!" (As long as it's within a few miles of all the rest of my family; and as long as it's a place I like; and as long as . . ." [you get the picture]).

"Lead me to some soul today!" But I don't know my Bible well enough to teach that soul the gospel, so maybe that's not such a good idea.

"Make me a servant, Lord; make me like You!" But wait! People weren't always kind to You; sometimes You suffered greatly while serving. Maybe I don't want to be **exactly** like You!

"All to Jesus I surrender!" Well, I surrender a little bit, anyway. I'm not an extremist, you know!

If you don't mean it, don't sing it.

Relieving The Sting

With summer in full swing, the pesky insects are in full swing as well. I recently received several insects' bites. Though not life-threatening, they are very annoying due to the itching they cause.

Trying to find something to stop the constant itching, I went to the internet. Wow, there are dozens of suggestions. I'm sure some of them will work, and some will not. But the fact that there are so many suggested remedies got me thinking about salvation.

You see, when discussing salvation, there are many different suggestions as to how one might be saved. But unlike a cure for an itching bug bite, there is only one remedy for the sin problem. Man may suggest many and varied cures, but only God has the one answer that will solve the sin problem.

I am reminded of two Bible examples that plainly illustrate there is only one solution in some cases. The first is the incident in Numbers 21:4-9 where God sent snakes to bite the rebellious Israelites. The only cure for the poisonous snake bites was for the people to simply look upon a brass serpent on a standard.

The second involves Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army, who had leprosy (II Kings 5). The cure was to dip seven times in the river Jordan. Another cleaner river would not cure. Dipping four or six times would not work. The only cure was seven dippings in the Jordan (v. 14).

Sin and death are linked (Romans 6:23). We all have "been bitten" (Romans 3:23). "*0 death, where is thy victory? 0 death, where is thy sting?*" (I Cor. 15:55)

When it comes to a cure for our sins and a means of salvation, John writes, "*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life*" (John 3:14-15).

There is but one cure. "*But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!*" (I Cor. 15:57). "*Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins*" (Acts 2:38).

--Roy Allen Crutcher (Mt. Carmel, IL)

PRIDE

*"Father, where shall I work today?
And my love flowed warm and free.
Then He pointed me out a tiny spot
And said, "Tend that for Me."*

*I answered quickly, "Oh no, not there!
Why, no one would ever see,
No matter how well my work was done;
Not that little place for me!"*

*And the word He spoke, it was not stern;
He answered me tenderly,
"Ah, little one, search that heart of thine.
Art thou working for them or Me?
Nazareth was a little place,
And so was Galilee."*

Ten Things To Do With Your Nose When You're Bored

10. Look down it at somebody (Pride)
9. Poke it into someone else's business (Strife/Dissension)
8. Snoop around with it (Nosy/Gossip)
7. Get it out of joint (Anger)
6. Cut it off to spite your face (Bitterness)
5. Pay through it (Materialism)
4. Find something right under it (Love/Salvation)
3. See past it (Eternity/Hope)
2. Keep it clean (Humility/Obedience)

And The #1 Thing To Do With Your Nose:

1. Get it stuck in a book (the Bible)

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