



In Christ Alone



"In Christ alone, my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease;
my comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

"In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe;
this gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on Him was laid,
here in the death of Christ I live."

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live; and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" - John 11:25,26

"And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You." - Psalm 39:7

"Christ in you, the hope of glory." - Colossians 1:27

"In Christ Alone" is a contemporary hymn that has my utmost respect. The music was written by Keith Getty and the lyrics are the work of Stuart Townend. It was first published in 2002 and continues to be widely used in churches since that time. The words point us to the Easter message, reminding us of why Christ came to earth, and what He accomplished on the cross.

Stuart grew up as the youngest of 4 children in a Christian home in West Yorkshire where his father was a vicar in the church of England. His family enjoyed music, and Stuart began to play the piano at the age of 7, preparing him to use his musical talents to lead other Christians into a deeper relationship with Christ. In 2000, he met Keith Getty, and as they shared ideas, the song "In Christ Alone" was born.

People of faith have always looked to God as their hope, as we read so often in the Old Testament. We find in the Gospels that the Messiah came in fulfillment of all the OT promises to secure salvation for those who would believe in Christ alone. Then the apostles wrote to

teach us how to fix our hope on Him and live in a way that honors the One who gave Himself for us.

Paul gave us the classic passage on the incarnation and mission of Jesus in Philippians 2:5-8, which reads:

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

It is because of Christ's death that we can live eternally with God. Every sin was laid on Him, for as Paul explains in 2nd Corinthians 5:21: "He made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." And earlier in the passage he writes, "He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf" (v.15).

Verses 3 and 4 of today's hymn give us a vivid picture of Christ's death and victorious resurrection. I encourage you to think about these lyrics line by line, as they express the truths of Scripture in a powerful way. Perhaps listen online as well, to hear the story of our Savior's death and resurrection portrayed in song:

"There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

"No guilt in life, no fear in death;
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
can ever pluck me from His hand,
till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!"