



I am His and He is Mine



"Loved with everlasting love, led by grace that love to know - Spirit, breathing from above, Thou hast taught me it is so!
O this full and perfect peace, O this transport all divine -
in a love which cannot cease, I am His and He is mine.

"Heav'n above is softer blue, earth around is sweeter green; something lives in ev'ry hue
Christless eyes have never seen!
Birds with gladder song o'erflow, flow'rs with deeper beauties shine, since I know, as
now I know, I am His and He is mine.

"Things that once were wild alarms cannot now disturb my rest;
closed in everlasting arms, pillowed on the loving breast!
O to lie forever here, doubt and care and self resign,
while He whispers in my ear - I am His and He is mine.

"His forever, only His - who the Lord and me shall part?
Ah, with what a rest of bliss Christ can fill the loving heart!
Heav'n and earth may fade and flee, first-born light in gloom decline, but while God
and I shall be, I am His and He is mine."

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." – Matthew 10:29-31

"I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." - Jeremiah 31:3

"My beloved is mine and I am his: he feedeth among the lilies." - Song of Solomon 2:16

"Consider the lilies how they grow; they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." - Luke 12:27

"I am His and He is Mine" is one of the most poetic and tender hymn texts I know, paired with a lovely melody. I am always blessed by reading the lyrics and soaking in the truths in every line about God's amazing love for us, shown most evidently in His beautiful creation and the gift of His Son.

A missionary to India named Henry Martyn (1781-1812) wrote in his diary of the transforming power of God's love in this way:

"Since I have known God in a saving manner, painting, poetry and music have had charms unknown to me before; for religion has refined my mind, and made it susceptible of impression from the sublime and beautiful." It has been suggested that this quote may have inspired George Wade Robinson in writing the text of today's hymn.

Rev. Robinson was born in Ireland in 1838 and grew to become a minister in the Congregational Church in Dublin and churches in England. Not much is known about his life, nor why he died at the age of 39. But he left behind beautiful poetry, the most popular of which is "I am His and He is Mine." His words were put to music by James Mountain and included in his hymn collection in 1876. The tune was named "Everlasting Love."

We perceive God's love through His Word, and the Spirit's ministry of grace in our hearts. When we belong to Him, we begin to see the world of nature with new eyes, and we can appreciate more deeply the lovingkindness of the Lord that endures forever toward His people. Unbelievers still receive what we would call the "common graces" of God - those good things that we benefit from even if we don't stop to think where they came from - for Scripture says that God causes the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

The beauties of nature are there for all to enjoy, but those who know Christ see them as the work of the divine Creator. As we read in verse two, "Heav'n above is softer blue, earth around is sweeter green; something lives in every hue Christless eyes have never seen." Even when trials of various kinds come into our lives, we see them through different - colored lenses, since Christ has opened our eyes to His truth. And the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, comes to give peace and rest as only He can.

Yesterday I had the honor of sharing Scripture and some comments at the funeral service for my friend's mother. We were blessed with a beautiful spring morning to stand at the graveside. For me it was a gift from the Father in answer to many prayers, and I am so grateful for those who prayed. Now I trust in the promise that God's Word will not return void as it was shared at a time of loss for those who heard.

I hope we all will find some quiet moments today to consider the handiwork of God and rest in the assurance that we belong to Him. If you do not yet have that confidence, draw near to Him through His Son and He will draw near to you. Then you will no longer view the world with Christless eyes, but see Him in all that He has created for our good and for His glory!