

# **“Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. The principles of innocence and simplicity are well represented in the hymn, “Jesus Loves Me.” There are sound spiritual lessons to learn from this song.
- B. The History - This popular song has been loved among children and adults alike since it was written in 1860. Anna B. Warner wrote the original version and later David Rutherford McGuire added stanzas two and three. Anna’s sister Susan had asked her to write a song for a Bible class teacher who wanted to cheer up a dying boy. No wonder the lyrics have brought a smile to many children and assurance to adults! The song first appeared in a novel, Say and Seal. In 1862, William B. Bradbury composed the music and added the refrain. It was used by denominational missionaries in China and quickly became a favorite of children there, primarily due to the melody and rhythm having an Asian flavor. The song has been much modified over the years to the form that we have it in our hymnals today.

## **I. “JESUS LOVES ME” IS SOUND BIBLE TEACHING**

- A. The song “Jesus Loves Me” claims Christ’s devotion to me, but how can that be true? As a sinner, wouldn’t a holy God despise me? - Rom. 5:6-10
- B. The song is not a hopeful delusion but rather sound, Biblical doctrine. While God hated my sin, His love for me compelled Him to do what He could to remove that barrier between us - John 3:16
- C. Jesus, God the Son, loved us so much He died a terrible death to pay the just penalty for our sins.

## **II. WHAT WE LEARN FROM “JESUS LOVES ME”**

### **A. “Jesus Loves Me”**

- 1. John 15:13 - Jesus foretold His crucifixion
  - a. He then went away and prayed, only to open His eyes and find Judas Iscariot standing with a detachment of troops ready to arrest Him on the charge of blasphemy
  - b. The question is important: what was the Son of God and Creator the universe doing in a garden near Jerusalem anyway?
- 2. He was there because He loved humankind taken hostage by the devil through sin; atonement for sin was the only way to justify the sinners and make them fit again for fellowship with God
  - a. Jesus was not there to increase His power, inflate His ego, or to win popularity - Rom. 15:3
  - b. He was there for love - 1John 3:16; Eph. 5:2
- 3. There is nothing more edifying and encouraging than knowing about the love of Christ - Eph. 3:14, 17-20

### **B. “The Bible Tells Me So”**

- 1. The answer to every question about doctrine: “The Bible tells me so.”
- 2. The same beautiful way that we know Jesus loves us, we also learn how to respond to that love

- a. To know for certain that we have the approval of God, we must obtain a "Thus saith the Lord"
- b. We read the Bible to obtain understanding - Eph. 3:3-4, 5:8-11
- c. We do not just speak according to our own opinions, nor we do serve according to our innovations - 1Peter 4:11
- 3. Nor do we take for granted what the Bible tells us, because it may tell us to change

C. "Little Ones To Him Belong"

- 1. "Jesus Loves Me" helps to reverse the trend of Calvinism which teaches that some of our children are hopelessly lost even before they are born, because John Calvin's version of God decreed their doom from the foundation of the world, before they got a chance to breathe or sin
- 2. The hymn is true: "Little ones to Him belong."
  - a. Although we all share the consequences of Adam's sin while living on Earth amidst temptation, disease and death, we are only held accountable by God for the sins we personally commit - 2Cor. 5:9-10
  - b. Little ones are incapable of believing or disbelieving and making choices about spirituality and morality; they are not lost until they personally submit to the Adversary.
- 3. Little ones belong to God until they gain enough maturity to make the decision to choose sin over purity - Rom. 3:23
  - a. As adults, we must understand that the little ones are much closer to God than we are, for they have never left Him; we did.

D. "Heaven's Gates to Open Wide"

- 1. Before Jesus, no one had ever been resurrected from the dead to never die again
  - a. Death was the Adversary's ultimate power - Heb. 2:14-15
  - b. Jesus death proved that the gates of Hades that now hold the dead until Judgment Day will open toward Heaven as believers are resurrected, never again to die - John 14:1-6
- 2. While the path to Heaven's gate begins at the cross, it must be remembered that it is also difficult and narrow - Matt. 7:13-14
- 3. Without the blood of Christ justifying me and the word of Christ sanctifying me, I have no hope of entering the gates of pearl in eternity

F. "He Will Wash Away My Sin"

- 1. When one is convicted of his sin, he is instructed to be baptized
  - a. Acts 22:16
- 2. Baptism is a washing of water by the word - Eph. 5:26
- 3. Baptism is an antitype to the salvation of Noah by water - 1Peter 3:21
- 4. The blood of Jesus washes away our sins, but baptism is the crucial moment when we are pronounced clean

G. "Thou hast bled and died for me, I will henceforth live for Thee" - Gal. 2:20

- 1. We may never be called upon to lay down our lives for the brethren as he did, or for him, but we willingly dedicate our lives to his cause as devoted disciples

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus loved His disciples - John 15:9-13, 17:23-26
- B. His love is not a passing affection but an abiding, self-sacrificing devotion
- C. Paul's testimony - Rom. 8:32, 35-39
- D. In one simple hymn, we can learn about a life of following Jesus, who still loves us and ministers to us today
- E. "Jesus Loves Me" is a song for all of God's children to sing, from the innocence of 18 months to the world weariness of 108 years. Sing it in faith.

Jesus loves me! This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak, but He is strong.

Jesus loves me! He who died  
Heaven's gate to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin,  
Let His little child come in.

Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.