

THE WONDER OF IT ALL

Exodus 15:2 ... "The Lord is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation; he is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God and I will exalt him."

I meet young people who are under the impression that Christians and the church, did not praise and worship God prior to the emergence of modern Christian music. They imagine that we old folks, just went to church on Sunday and listened to a sermon. Many, if not most, of the readers of this are not familiar with the old hymns of the church. Long before there was Don Moen and Hillsong, the church sang hymns, many of which were written hundreds of years ago. I grew up in that era, but as I grew older more modern Christian music emerged and was gradually adopted by churches. I am a fan of both, but hymns hold a special place in my heart because they tell incredible stories of faith, perseverance, and trust, plus gratefulness for our blessings and the promises of God. When you read the lyrics of some of the old hymns, you can clearly see and feel God's inspiration of the writer. One such hymn is: The Wonder of it All, which was written not so long ago (1956) by George Beverly Shea.

Verse 1 reads:

There's the wonder of sunset at evening, the wonder as sunrise I see;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul, is the wonder that God loves me.

Verse 2:

There's the wonder of springtime and harvest, the sky, the stars, the sun;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul, is a wonder that's only begun.

The composition of Christian songs, whether they were written two hundred years ago or last week, can never replace or expand God's Word that we find in the Bible. But, if they testify to the power and goodness of God, if they confess to the frailty of man, or if they praise our Savior, then they can help open men's hearts and prompt them to turn to God.

The chorus of the hymn, reads:

O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all! Just to think that God loves me.

Man has been worshipping and praising God in song since creation. I pray we will all continue to do so until Christ returns whether the song we sing was written in the 1800s, or 2017.

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