

My Jesus, I Love Thee Devotional

Page 3 in **Hymns of Our Redeemer**
William R. Featherston, 1846-1873

Hi, we are honored to share the next few minutes with you as we look into the message of this old favorite hymn, "My Jesus, I Love Thee." My name is _____ .

We should note the dates of the life of the author, William R. Featherston. He lived in the mid 1800's, a citizen of Montreal, Canada. We are told that he became a Christian at the age of 16 and soon thereafter wrote the words of this hymn as a poem. He died before his 27th birthday, leaving behind a wife and a young son. Several years after William's death, Adoniram J. Gordon, an evangelist, and founder of Gordon College, stumbled on these words and added the tune we are so familiar with today.*

Let us sing together this classic hymn of love and faith in Jesus Christ, so profound a message written by so young a child of God:

1. My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
3. In Mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

* Hymnary.org

Thoughts on the Scriptures:

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, loves us. He loves you! In 1 Corinthians 13:4, we are taught that love is patient and love is kind. O how patient and kind our Lord is! He is patient with our follies and faults and failures. He was ever so kind to give His life up in agony on the cross as the means of redemption for our lost souls. He "gave Himself for me" and you! Our Heavenly Father counts His death in the place of our death in payment for our sins - the price has been paid - FOR US! (Romans 8:32)

And now, though weighed down by age or struggling with illness, we live our new life in Christ by the gift of faith - faith in His work on the cross for us. Now we live, in our weakness and in our stumbling, in the abiding presence of **Christ living IN US!**

It is not to our own strength or our own perfection that we look for life - NO! We look for life by faith in the life of the risen Christ who lives IN US! How confident **He is**, how strong **He is**, how faithful **He is**! For He has taken up abode in our human heart as we continue our journey here in communion with our Creator, our Savior, our Lord! Indeed, our faith rests in Him, for He is able to keep that which we have committed unto Him against the day we stand to face Him before His throne (2 Timothy 1:12).

"My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou; If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 1 John 4:9

When we see the word, "manifested" in Scripture, we can think of the phrase, "made plain and obvious." It is a great gift from our Heavenly Father, if we believe the testimony of Holy Scripture concerning the Passion of Our Savior on the cross. And to believe this record, demands we consider how much He suffered for us. The depths of His suffering was required by God's righteous judgment of the depths of our sins. But, rather than leave us hopeless in eternal punishment, our loving Heavenly Father paid our debt Himself, on the

cross, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. "...that whosoever believes in HIM, shall not perish but have eternal life!" (John 3:16)

"I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow; If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Revelation 15:3

The scriptural setting of the singing of this song is in the heavenly realms. It is sung by those who knew the victory of Jesus in their own lives over the evil in this world. It is scenes like this from Holy Scripture that must have sparked the imagination of our young writer to anticipate the "mansions of glory," the "endless delight," and the "glittering crown" of victory that awaited him in Heaven. We all would do well to allow the message of salvation to grip our imaginations...to consider the precious gift afforded us by God's love in Jesus Christ for all who believe. One day, whatever it will actually be like when we get there, it will be a glorious victory to "forever be with the Lord!" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

*"In Mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
"If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.""*

We love Him, because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Surely, all of us can look back and see God's hand in our lives before we stopped to respond in repentance and faith in His salvation. He loved us thousands of years before we loved Him. He loved us when we were ignoring Him. He loved us when we intentionally disobeyed His Word. He loved us to bring us to the place in our lives that we admitted our lost condition and our need for His salvation afforded us in Jesus Christ. Yes, we love Him, but may we never forget that "He first loved us!"

Let us sing this timeless hymn one more time as we consider the unshakable ground of His love for us. And, as we sing, let us consider that His unshakable love is the eternal banner that inspires and fuels and sustains our love for Him (Song of Solomon 2:4).

My Jesus I Love Thee

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A Closing Prayer:

Let us Pray. – Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your love. Thank You for the love that You demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ. Thank You for paying the price that we owed for our many sins. Thank You for caring enough for each of Your children to take part in our lives by Your personal presence with us now.

We need You. We know we are lost without You in our life. Please strengthen our faith. Grant that we learn to walk with You through all the circumstances of every day.

We love You, and it is our prayer that our love for You grows. We want to please You. We pray that we remain faithful to You no matter what.

Father, grant that our love for You be strong enough to actually affect our attitudes and our actions in this life. Grant that our love for You inspires us to truly look forward to some day being with You and all the saints in Glory. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.