

It Is Well with My Soul

I. Introduction

A. The hymn *It Is Well with My Soul* expresses the contentment, peace, and hope the faithful Christian can (and should) have. Consider some principles Scripture teaches that are alluded to in this hymn. *Hymns for Worship, Song 626*

II. “When Peace Like a River...”

A. The first verse introduces the key theme of the hymn. Whether temporal circumstances are good (“peace like a river...”) or bad (“sorrows like sea billows...”), one who is right with God has reason for contentment. *Song 626, verse 1*; **Philippians 4:11-13**; **Revelation 2:9** (cf. **3:17**); **1 Timothy 6:6**

III. “Tho’ Satan Should Buffet...”

- A. The second verse hones in further on the comfort the faithful child of God can have even through fiery trials. Contentment in the midst of suffering is learned by those who focus on Christ’s blessings. *Song 626, verse 2*; **2 Corinthians 12:7-9**
- B. When “trials should come,” it is helpful for the Christian to think about what Christ has done so that our souls might be safe and secure. **Philippians 2:5-8**

IV. “My Sin, O the Bliss...”

- A. Verse three elaborates on the implications of what Christ did for us through His death. It is a “glorious tho’t” to consider the freedom Christ gives His followers from sin and spiritual death. *Song 626, verse 3*; **Isaiah 53:5**
- B. The spiritual freedom and rest Christ offers should be thoughtfully considered by those outside the body of the saved. Likewise, it should be *appreciated* by those who *are* in a saved condition. As the hymn alludes to, appreciating what Christ has done for us is cause for joy, peace, and gratitude, even in the midst of fiery trials. **Matthew 11:28-29** (*Songs 268 & 333*)

V. “And, Lord, Haste the Day...”

- A. The peace and contentment present in the heart of the faithful Christian is anchored by hope of something that will be fully realized on the Day of Judgment. This is the subject of the fourth verse of the hymn. *Song 626, verse 4*; **2 Peter 3:12**; **Romans 8:18**

VI. Conclusion

- A. In view of the abundant blessings Christ provides to the faithful, those who are His always have reason to sing “It Is Well with My Soul,” no matter what life on earth holds in store.