

First Christian Church

Hummin' With Howard



Tyrone



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If there is anyone, who understands a little bit about grace, it would have been John Newton. John is the writer of the beloved hymn Amazing Grace. He lost his mother at an early age, he was forced into the Royal Navy, he deserted, was captured and flogged and considered suicide. After leaving the service he became involved in the Atlantic slave trade. One day as John was working his slave business he got caught in a violent storm and called out to God for mercy. God heard his call and it became a time of spiritual conversion for John. He began studying Christian Theology and started writing hymns for the church. Amazing Grace was written to illustrate a sermon on New Year's Day in 1773.

Each of the verses of the hymn point out a truth about Grace that we find in scripture. "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see." Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8- 9, ***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast***

"Was Grace that taught my heart to fear and Grace my fears relieved. How precious did that Grace appear the hour I first believed." Peter writes in 2 Peter 3:18, ***But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*** Grace will help us to know who God is. Proverbs 1:7 tells us, ***The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.*** Grace will help us to understand that God is all powerful and it will also show us that He is a loving and compassionate God.

"Through many dangers, toils and snares we have already come. T'was grace that brought us safe thus far and Grace will lead us home." Paul writes in Romans 5:2, ***through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.***

"When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun." Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians 2:16, ***May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,*** and in Titus 3:7, ***so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.***

This same grace that John Newton wrote about in this wonderful hymn is offered to all who believe. That should cause us to hum this hymn for eternity.



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