

269 (Blue) The Wonder of it All (adapted from wordwisehymns.com)

George Beverly Shea (1909-2013)

Born in Winchester, Ontario, Bev Shea became an internationally renowned gospel singer who recorded approximately 500 vocal solos on more than seventy albums.

In 1955, Bev Shea was on board an ocean liner, heading for Britain. On the deck one evening, Bev recognized the president of a New York publishing company which also published music. Though the man wasn't a Christian, he spoke of his enjoyment of the hymns of the church. He asked what went on in their crusade meetings, and Bev shared a bit about that, exclaiming, "Oh, sir, if you could see it, the *wonder* of it all!"

The man reached into his pocket, pulled out an envelope, and wrote something on it in big letters. When he held it up, Bev read, "The Wonder of It All," and the gentleman said, "I challenge you to write a song with this title." That night, Bev did so. In fact, about two in the morning his puzzled wife whispered, "What are you *doing*?" He replied, "Oh, just working on a little music." The result was a simple but beautiful hymn, *The Wonder of It All*.

1) 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.

*O the wonder of it all, the wonder of it all—
Just to think that God loves me!
O the wonder of it all, the wonder of it all—
Just to think God loves me!*

296 (Blue) Trust His Word (Hymn Study)

Ron Hamilton (1950-)

Psalm 119:42 *So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.*

“Jesus made each star in heaven, He created earth and sea.”

We can trust God’s Word because of natural revelation. Psalm 19:1-6 says, *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.*

“He’s the keeper of all knowledge, What is past and what will be.”

Divine revelation is shown in Psalm 19:7-14. *The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. 12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. 13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.*

“Yet He offer His great wisdom. So you will not lose your way.”

He offers this wisdom to us! James 1:5 *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

“Like a lamp it glows every step it shows. You can know His will each day.”

We can trust God’s Word to light our way. Psalm 119:105 *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

“He is not a distant stranger. He can be your closest friend.”

The second stanza talks about Christ’s relationship with His saints. Proverbs 18:24 *A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.* John 15:14-15 *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*

“He is not a distant stranger. He can be your closest friend.”

He has empathy for you. “...And He’ll always listen closely. When you share your heart with Him. Jesus walks the path beside you. He has been there all along, And He’ll guide your feet, When your step is weak, and your strength is almost gone.” Hebrews 4:15-16 *For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

So how do we respond? “Trust His Word. Trust His Word. All God’s promises are true. Trust His Word. When your pathway disappears. When your joy gives way to tears. When you’re plagued with doubts and fears. Trust His Word.”

308 (Blue) Not My Will (Hymn Study)

Ron Hamilton (1950-)

Luke 22:42 *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

The first stanza shows us our example: Christ.

“When Jesus Christ my Savior prepared for Calvary’s hill,
He went into the garden and sought the Father’s will.
I read about his anguish, and feel his sorrow there,
I see him humbly kneeling, and listen to his prayer.”

The second stanza shows Christ’s humbling.

“My Lord became a servant, A man of lowly birth.
He laid aside his glory to dwell with sons of earth.
But now he is exalted! Let every tongue proclaim.
And someday all will praise him, And magnify his name.”

Philippians 2:5-11 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The third stanza shows what a Christian’s response should be in light of Christ’s example.

“Lord Jesus, I surrender, my will shall be thine own,
I lay aside ambition and bow before thy throne.
I’ll give myself for others, as you didst die for me.
Lord, send me forth with power to live my life for thee.”

What’s our response?

“Not my will, but thine, Lord, Lead me to Calvary.
Make my life a living sacrifice, crucified for thee.”