**The Spirit & The Understanding, Part 30**

**Reading – 1 Corinthians 14:1-15**

***[Colossians 3:16-17]*** ***Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*** ***And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

**Worthy Is The Lamb # 205**

Don Wyrtzen directed a New York City dance band before he was converted and started the Word of Life organization.

People said he “had music in his bones”.

This worship chorus came about because Don didn’t know Spanish.

He was in Mexico City assisting a fellow named Luis Palau in a series of crusades, but didn’t understand the sermons because they were in Spanish.

He said, “I spent the time during the sermons writing new songs.”

One day he was particularly impressed with the great truth of Revelation 5:12.

He wondered how it could be best set to music for our present time.

He referenced a secular song,”The Impossible Dream” from the musical The Man of La Mancha and thought a similar style might work well with these words.

When it became a hit, he had this to say, “God has used this song to bless and inspire his people during these past years perhaps more than any other work I have been privileged to write.”

**Jesus, Lover of My Soul # 807**

Charles Wesley had strict religious training at home.

Two years before his conversion, he was crossing the Atlantic.

A storm arose and he was terrified.

He wrote this in his journal:

“The sea streamed in at the sides…it was as much as four men could do by continual pumping to keep her above water. I rose and lay down by turns, but could remain in no posture long; strove vehemently to pray but in vain.”

After he returned from America, Charles was converted.

One year after his conversion, he wrote this hymn, one of the most famous of the six thousand hymns that he wrote.

The hymn speaks about the tempest and about seeking a refuge from the storm.

Charles found that refuge, that safe haven in Jesus Christ, and he speaks about it in the last stanza:

“Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin.”

**The Sands of Time Are Sinking # 900**

There are two stories woven together in this hymn.

Anne Ross Cousin was in her home sewing when an idea struck her

She had just finished reading a biography of Samuel Rutherford, a 17th Century Scottish Covenanter.

Not only had he lived a remarkable life, but he had said many remarkable and very quotable things. She decided to weave the sayings together and make a hymn out of them.

The other story is about Samuel Rutherford who was banished from the town and church he loved because he refused to conform to the established doctrines of the time. He was labeled a “New Covenanter”.

He was summoned to appear before Parliament and answer the charges.

He was ill & dying so he wrote his response two days before he died, “I have been summoned to appear before a higher court and that first summons, I must answer.”

His last words were, Glory to my Creator & Redeemer forever! Oh, for arms to embrace Him. Glory, Glory dwells in Immanuel’s Land.”

Anne Cousin wove her hymn tapestry around his words, closing each stanza with the words,” glory, glory dwelleth in Immanuel’s land.”

**More About Jesus # 678**

Eliza Hewitt wrote this hymn as she was studying the promises of God that had been fulfilled in Jesus.

The more she studied, the more excited she became as she saw Scripture fulfilled in every aspect of Jesus’ life.

She discovered that All Scripture on Jesus as the Christ.

It is especially significant that Hewitt was so faithfully seeking God at this point in her life.

At the time, she was recovering from a severe spinal injury.

She was teaching school in Philadelphia when she was struck with a heavy slate by one of her students.

Eliza was never again able to teach in the public schools, but she continued to be involved with Sunday school

There she was able to combine the two great loves of er life: children and Jesus.

**Wonderful Grace Of Jesus # 112**

Haldor Lillenas and his wife were settling into a ministry at the Nazarene church in Auburn, Illinois.

After buying a house in nearby Olivet, they had little money left to furnish it.

They both were hymn writers but they could not afford a piano.

They found a “wheezy little organ” in a neighbor’s home and paid $5 for it.

He wrote this song on that instrument.

This song has a rolling melody and climbing chorus. It became very popular at evangelistic meetings. Haldor used it in his own evangelistic crusades.

The message of Scripture come through clearly here – No matter how great a sinner you are, God’s grace is greater.

No matter how great your guilt, God’s forgiveness is greater.

Praise His name!