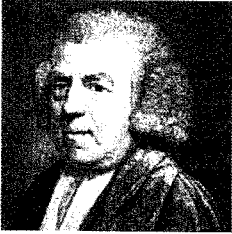


# Songs of Lent

## Amazing Grace

February 24 & 25, 2016



English poet and clergyman, John Newton, (1725-1807) penned the poem, *Faith's Review and Expectation*. It was composer William Walker who joined Newton's poem with the tune *New Britain* to create the song that has become *Amazing Grace*. Contemporary Christian music artist, Chris Tomlin, composed *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)* in 2008.

Amazing grace!( how sweet the sound) That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see!

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers , toils, and snares I have already come;  
Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine.

*John Newton, Olney Hymns, 1779*

**Small Group Discussion:** *Share some things that do not mix; things that do not go well together such as oil and water.*

**Scriptural Basis:** I Chronicles 17:16-17; Psalm 32: 1-7; Isaiah 59:1-2;9,15-20; John 3:17-21; Ephesians 1:4-9; John 1:14,16,17; Romans 3:22b-24

## The Second Article

*"And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead."*

Here we learn to know the second person of the Godhead and get to see what God gives us over and above the temporal blessings mentioned before—how He has poured Himself out completely for us, not withholding anything of Himself from us. This article is a very rich and far-reaching one, but for a brief and simple treatment, we shall take only one of its phrases and by means of it lay hold on the entire substance of this article. With the purpose of learning how we were redeemed, we shall here focus on these words, "in Jesus Christ, our Lord."

Now, when you are asked, "What do you believe according to the Second Article concerning Jesus Christ," answer very briefly, "I believe that Jesus Christ, the true Son of God, has become my Lord." What is it to "become my Lord"? This means He has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and from all evil. Before that, I had no Lord and King, but was held captive in the devil's power, condemned to die, and bound up in sin and blindness.

For when we had been created and had received all manner of good things from God the Father, the devil came and brought us down into disobedience, sin, death, and every misery. There we lay in disgrace with God and under His wrath, sentenced to the eternal damnation which we had brought on ourselves and thoroughly deserved. For us there was no counsel, help, or comfort until the one eternal Son of God in His boundless mercy pitied our misery and wretchedness and came from heaven to help us. All those former tyrant jailers have now been routed. Into their place stepped Jesus Christ, the Lord of life, righteousness, and every goodness and blessing, who has rescued us poor, lost humans out of the jaws of hell, won us, freed us, and brought us back into our Father's favor and grace; He has taken us beneath His shield and shelter to reign in us with His righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and bliss.

Let this article, then, be summarized in this way: the little word "Lord" simply means as much as Redeemer, that is, the One who rescued us from the devil to bring us to God, from death to bring us into life, from sin to bring us into righteousness, and now keeps us safe where He has brought us. The parts of this article that follow only explain and underscore the manner and the means by which the redemption came about, that is, how much it cost Christ, what He underwent, and what He risked in order to regain us and bring us back under his rulership. They declare that in order to conquer sin He became man, conceived and born without sin of the Holy Ghost and the Virgin Mary, that He suffered, died, and was buried in order to make satisfaction in my stead and pay what I owed, not with silver or gold, but with His own precious blood. All this He did in order to become my Lord. For He did none of this for Himself, nor did He need to. Then He rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed rulership at the right hand of the Father. Thus the devil and all powers must be subject to Him and be under His feet until on the last day He will separate and sunder us completely from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, etc.

Detailed explanations of all these individual points, however, does not belong in brief addresses to children, but in sermons spread throughout the entire year, especially at the times fixed for the consideration of each of the subjects in detail: the birth, the suffering and death, the resurrection, and the ascension of Christ, and so on.

The entire Gospel that we preach depends on our thorough grasp of this article. Upon it rests our entire salvation and joy, and it is so rich and inclusive that it will keep challenging our efforts to learn it.