

# Worship Preparation

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of DURHAM

## Getting Ready for Sunday

This Sunday **Flynn Cratty** will be preaching on the subject of adoption, based on **1 John 3**. It is **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**.

One of the songs we sang last Sunday is called “**All I Have Is Christ**.” It is such a great song, I thought you might benefit from a song analysis I read recently. The article is continued from last week. Read and enjoy! -Eric

### Songwriting Analysis: “All I Have Is Christ” Blog Post by Bobby Gilles

(Continued from last week.)

Let's scan the second verse for more poetic devices:

But as I ran my hell-bound race  
Indifferent to the cost  
You looked upon my helpless state  
And led me to the cross.  
And I beheld God's love displayed  
You suffered in my place  
You bore the wrath reserved for me  
Now all I know is grace.

“All I Have Is Christ” is the theme of a Christian's praise. Again, the only perfect end rhymes are lines 6 and 8. But we get some good consonance with the “H” sound in “hell-bound/helpless/beheld” which also advances the story. We were *hell-bound* and *helpless* until we *beheld* the cross.

Kauflin drives the story with strong, simple action verbs: *Ran, looked, led, beheld, suffered, bore, know*. The story had advanced and reached its climax at the cross. As singers, we've covered a lot of ground, admitting our total depravity and utter dependence on Christ's sacrifice for our salvation. And Christ has come through, suffering and bearing God's wrath. So now we shout:

(REFRAIN) *Hallelujah! All I have is Christ  
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life*

Why do many hymns have such simple refrains? Because after covering all the ground that hymn verses typically cover, we need to “breathe” so to speak – to take stock of all the theological depth and sweeping story line, then belt out our exclamation. A lyrically dense chorus wouldn't do here. We find this same principle in Paul's epistles – a sudden burst of praise, confession or petition after verse upon verse of deep theology.

So where does “All I Have Is Christ” go for the third verse, after having seen our salvation achieved in the second?

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone  
And live so all might see  
The strength to follow your commands  
Could never come from me.  
Oh Father, use my ransomed life  
In any way You choose.  
And let my song forever be  
My only boast is You.

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No end rhyme at all in the odd lines (which isn't unusual: we find as many “ABCB” rhymed songs as “ABAB”). See/me” offers a perfect rhyme in lines 2 & 4, which we get a slant pattern again in 6 & 8 (“choose/you”).

The first two verses recounted our desperate condition and Christ's outrageous solution – the amazing grace that saves such wretches. This third verse is our response. But it is a different response than many hymns and praise songs that cover this path. Rather than a vow to work for the Lord, to live right, to make up for lost time or begin following Christ's example, it is a further admission.

The strength to follow Your commands could never come from me followed by the sentiment “Use me as You'd choose, Lord,” and “Always remind me that I can't boast of anything I might do – I can only boast in You.” This is hardy Bible theology. Having begun in grace, we are not then made perfect in works – it's all grace. The song acknowledges that God doesn't merely turn us around; He carries us. See how each verse builds upon what comes before? If you have two verses doing the same thing, you don't need one of them. Here we get three verses covering new ground, each earning its spot in the song.

*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.”*

Hebrews 12:28-29



**SUNDAY’S SERMON**  
**“Two Fathers, Two Families”**

*The following passage is the Sermon Scripture for Sunday. Read and meditate on God’s Word, and memorize the verse printed in **bold**, this week’s suggested memory verse.*

**1 John 3:1-3 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called **children of God; and so we are.** The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

<sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

**Songs We Will Sing on Sunday**

*All of the songs this week speak in one way or another about God’s electing love towards His children, made heirs of God:*

**“Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)”**

**“All Creatures of Our god and King”** (Hymn 27)

**“Who Am I”**

**“You Made Us Your Own”** (a solo about our adoption in Christ, to be sung by Debbie Rook)

**“How High and How Wide”**

**Pray for our Leaders:**

- ✓ **Preaching:** Flynn Cratty
- ✓ **Leading in Prayer:** Andrew Davis, Matthew Hodges, John Castellucci, Ryan Hutchinson
- ✓ **Leading in Praise:** Worship Ministry Team, Eric Campbell, Debbie Rook (solo)
- ✓ **Reading Scripture:** Paul Campbell
- ✓ **Church Life:** Ryan Hutchinson
- ✓ **Translating:** Herbert Rivera

