

In Times of Trial

Last Friday believers around the world remembered the crucifixion of Christ. We often focus on the pain of the cross and the forgiveness of our own sins, which Jesus bought with his blood. As horrible as the cross was, the resurrection was infinitely more profound. But we sometimes forget to continue to *the rest of the story*. And that is, that the resurrected Jesus is not only at the right hand of God, but His is also present with us, whatever be our trial or pain.

There is an old Christian Hymn, *In the Hour of Trial* that is all but forgotten in many churches, but illustrates this precious concept. The message is one of patience in tough times specifically because of the presence of Jesus in our lives. But it is not merely His presence with us that counts, but our specific decision to spend time in His presence.

The song itself is beautiful to sing, but the words, when simply read, are, in my estimation, more deeply understood and appreciated. That is often the case with old and familiar songs that we sometimes sing by rote and note rather than marvel and message.

During these times of the COVID-19 virus and the social distancing required as part of the battle, please consider carefully the depth of the thoughts and the point of the poem. Read it deeply, consider it carefully and live it lovingly.

Ray Wallace

*In the hour of trial, Jesus, plead for me,
Lest by base denial, I depart from Thee;
When Thou seest me waver, with a look recall,
Nor for fear or favor, suffer me to fall.
Should Thy mercy send me sorrow, toil, and woe;
Or should pain attend me, on my path below;
Grant that I may never fail Thy hand to see;
Grant that I may ever cast my care on Thee.
When the last hour cometh, fraught with strife and pain,
When Thou, Lord, returneth to the earth again;
On Thy truth relying as that hour draws near,
Jesus, take me, waiting, to Thy presence dear.*