

In Christ Alone

In Christ Alone is a very popular contemporary Christian hymn that speaks of the life, death, and resurrection Christ.

Submission

Submitted By

This song was requested by Josh Creel.

Reason for the Submission

I don't recall the reason for the submission, specifically. But I too (Jim Duke) would submit it if Josh Creel had not already done so.

Research

Research Conducted By

Jim Duke

Copyright Information

Copyright: 2001 Thankyou Music Administered by: Capitol CMG Publishing

CCLI Song #: 3350395 CCLI License #: 2055442

The Hallal arrangement is under copyright. the J. D. Bull arrangement appears to be without copyright

Sources

1. [CCLI SongSelect Entry](#)
2. [Hallal SATB Arrangement](#)
3. [Bulls SATB Arrangement](#)
4. [Getty SATB Arrangement](#)
5. [Matt Bassford Blog on In Christ Alone](#) - discusses some of the doctrinal issues that have been raised concerning the hymn.
6. [Stuart Townend's web page about the hymn](#)

Hymn

See the [Matt Bassford](#), and [Stuart Townend](#) pages.

Original Verses

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -

For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Original verses drawn from Stuart Townend's page. Layout, capitalization, and punctuation is faithful to that source.

Variations in the text

At least two denominations have objected to the phrase in verse 3: "The wrath of God was satisfied" and sought to change that phrase to: "the love of God was magnified". The Southern Baptists did change it without seeking permission from the copyright holders. The Presbyterians sought permission and were denied; and subsequently removed "In Christ Alone" from their new hymnal.

Tune

The words and the music were developed together as a unit. The tune doesn't have a separate background.

Objections

Wrath of God Objection

Verse 2b reads:

Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

The objection raised is that this is a reference to the doctrine of Penal Substitution

Eternal Security Objection

Researcher Recommendation

Recommendation from the researcher about whether or not the hymn/tune should be accepted and what modifications should be done (which verses to use, any rewording etc.)

Critical Review

During my research I encountered a couple objections that some have raised regarding the use of this song. After consulting with Robert Harkrider, Josh Creel, Walcott Steele, Greg Kline, and Ralph Kline we all came to the conclusion that the objections were without merit and that the song is very much appropriate for use in our worship.

Typesetting

TBD

Technical Review

TBD