**“Let The Beauty Of Jesus Be Seen”**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday May 16th, 2021

Text: I Peter 2:21

# Intro

1. Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:5, 15; I Peter 2:21:
   1. Saints are told to be lights and to walk in the light (Jn. 8:12; I Jn. 1:6-7).
   2. We are also told Jesus is our example and we are to walk in His footsteps!
   3. If we walk in the light and imitate Christ (I Cor. 11:1) others will see Christ in us! (Gal. 2:20)
2. I Corinthians 14:15: We are to sing with our minds in understanding!
3. Colossians 3:16: Singing hymns & spiritual songs aids in teaching one another!
   1. “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
4. “Let The Beauty Of Jesus Be Seen” (1916, 1934) by Albert W.T. Orsborn (1886-1967).
   1. Born Albert William Thomas Orsborn in 1886, he became an Officer of The Salvation Army in 1905.
   2. In 1909, he married his first wife, Captain Evalina Barker, who died in 1942.
   3. He wrote stanza 1 in 1916 but no other information is available.
   4. In 1944, he married his second wife, Major Evelyn Berry. They were married for just a year when she died (1945).
   5. In 1946, the High Council of The Salvation Army elected Albert to become the General of The Salvation Army.
   6. He married his third wife, Commissioner Mrs. Phillis Taylor (a daughter of General Higgins), in 1947.
   7. General Orsborn served as General for eight years, retiring on June 30, 1954. General Albert Orsborn died in 1967 at the age of 80 years and 5 months.
   8. Many hymn books don’t credit Gen. Orsborn for the text of the hymn, but give credit to George L. Johnson who wrote stanzas 2-4 in 1934!
5. The hymn is a call for saints to let the beauty of Jesus to be seen in their lives!
6. **Saints Characterized by Passion and Purity**
7. Stanza 1 suggests that we be characterized by passion and purity:
   1. “Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, All His wonderful passion and purity; May His Spirit divine All my being refine, Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.”
8. Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:27: Christians must conduct themselves so that others will see Christ living in them. *(Is. 53:2: Not physically beautiful! Must have His attributes/character!)*
9. I Cor. 11:1; Eph. 5:1: Like Paul, we need to imitate Christ in all His wonderful passion and purity (I Jn. 3:3, 5).
10. Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16-17; I Tim. 4:12: To keep oneself pure we let His Spirit dwell in us and through the influence of His word help us to direct our lives so as to please the Lord (Phil. 2:15; Js. 1:27: Must keep oneself “blameless” and “unstained” by the world!)
11. Through the word of God we conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel, and let the beauty of Jesus be seen in us!
12. **Saints Characterized by Kindness in Return for Evil**
13. Stanza 2 suggests that we be characterized by kindness in return for evil:
    1. “When somebody has been so unkind to you, Some word spoken that pierces you through and through, Think how He was beguiled, Spat upon and reviled; Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you.”
14. Mt. 10:21-22; II Tim. 3:12: There may be times when people are unkind to us.
15. Mt. 12:36-37: There may also be times when people speak piercing words (“careless”) to us *(I Pet. 4:3-4: To “malign” is to speak evil against someone).*
16. When those times come, it will help us to let His beauty be seen in us by remembering how He was beguiled & reviled – and don’t return evil for evil but overcome evil with good!
    1. Some in the Lord’s church have objected to this stanza because one definition of “beguile” is “to mislead by guile, deceive,” and they say that Jesus was not deceived.
    2. However, another definition is “to deprive by deceit, to be cheated,” and Jesus was certainly cheated out of His rightful judgment by men who deceived others with their lies, yet He opened not His mouth to lash out in anger when He was spat upon and reviled *(Is. 53:7-8; Mt. 27:30-44).*
    3. I Pet. 2:21-24: One of the examples left by Christ is how to suffer for being righteous – Not to return evil for evil (Rom. 12:17, 19-21; I Thess. 5:15; I Pet. 3:8-9)
    4. I Pet. 4:16: If we suffer for being a Christian, we are to rejoice in this name and glorify God *(Acts 5:41-42)!*
17. Even when we are mistreated we are to return evil with good and a blessing to let our lights shine so Jesus is seen in us!
18. **Saints Characterized by a Sweet Disposition**
19. Stanza 3 suggests that we be characterized by a sweet disposition:
    1. “From the dawn of the morning to close of day, In example, in deeds, and in all you say, Lay your gifts at His feet, Ever strive to keep sweet, Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you.”
20. Lk. 9:23: We must let the beauty of Jesus be seen every day from morning until evening, because Christianity involves bearing our cross daily, follow His example!
21. Col. 3:17, 23-24; I Tim. 4:12: We let His beauty be seen in us by our example in both word and deed!
22. Jn. 12:3; I Pet. 5:6-7: It will help us to keep sweet if we lay our gifts at His feet, symbolizing our complete submission to Him and His will, as Mary did.
    1. I Pet. 5:7 (NKJ): “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
23. In our example and daily conduct, in word & deed, others around us ought to be able to see Jesus in us!

**Conclusion**

1. This hymn is about letting our lights shine and imitating Christ in every circumstance of life!
2. While we may not know very much about the origin of the hymn or what inspired it, we can know it reminds us that in our daily lives we should always strive to “Let The Beauty of Jesus Be Seen” in us!
3. If not a Christian, you need to be! Repent & be baptized today!
4. If a saint who has erred, repent and be renewed!
5. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

<http://hymnstudiesblog.wordpress.com/2008/09/09/quotlet-the-beauty-of-jesus-be-seenquot/>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Orsborn>

[**“Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen”**](http://hymnstudiesblog.wordpress.com/2008/09/09/quotlet-the-beauty-of-jesus-be-seenquot/) **(1916, 1934)**

**By Albert W.T. Orsborn (1886-1967)**



**“LET THE BEAUTY OF JESUS BE SEEN”**  
*“Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps”* (1 Pet. 2.21)

A song which encourages us to follow the example that Jesus left for us is “Let The Beauty of Jesus Be Seen.” The text of stanza 1 was written by Albert W. T. Orsborn (1886-1967). No other information is available, except that it is dated around 1916. Born Albert William Thomas Orsborn, he became an Officer of The Salvation Army in 1905. Albert served as a Corps Officer and in divisional work in the British Territory of the Salvation Army. In 1909, he married his first wife, Captain Evalina Barker.

In 1925, he was sent to serve as Chief Side Officer at the International Training College. In 1933, he was sent to New Zealand as Chief Secretary. He then became Territorial Commander of Scotland and Ireland in 1936. In 1940, he became British Commissioner.

Albert Orsborn's first wife, Captain Evalina Barker, died in 1942. This was a very hard time for him. Two years later, in 1944, he married his second wife, Major Evelyn Berry. They were married for just a year when she died.

In 1946, the High Council of The Salvation Army elected Albert to become the General of The Salvation Army. He married his third wife, Commissioner Mrs. Phillis Taylor (a daughter of General Higgins), in 1947.

General Orsborn served as General for eight years. He was the author of *The House of My Pilgrimage*. He retired on 30 June 1954. General Albert Orsborn died at the age of 80 years and 5 months. A Salvation Army collectable website lists an e-book entitled *The Poet General–Albert W. T. Orsborn C. B. E*., by Bernard Watson, and Kingsgate Publishing has a compact disc of Salvation Army hymns by Herbert Booth and Orsborn.

The tune (Bridlington) was composed by Tom M. Jones (1891-1978). It was published in 1927. The composer is identified as “Rev.” Tom Jones in some books.  Older books say, “Copyright property of Rev. Tom Jones,” while newer ones say, “Copyright–the estate of Tom Jones.”

The original text read as follows:  
“Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, All his wonderful passion and purity.  
O thou Spirit Divine, all my nature refine, Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.”

The text of stanzas 2-4 was added by George L. Johnson in 1934. *Hymns for Worship* and *Sacred Selections* both have an arrangement made in 1934 by Cleavant Derricks and copyrighted by the Stamps-Baxter Music and Ptg. Co. *Both hymnbooks give credit for text to George L Johnson.*