

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

"Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool." Isaiah 1:18

1. Come, ye sin-ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed, sick and sore;
 2. Come, ye thirst-y, come and wel-come, God's free boun-ty glo - ri - fy;
 3. Come, ye wea-ry, heav-y - la - den, lost and ru - ined by the fall;
 4. Let not conscience make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond-ly dream;

Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and pow'r.
 true be - lief and true re - pen-tance, eve - ry grace that brings you nigh.
 if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.
 all the fit - ness He re - quir-eth is to feel your need of Him.

I will a-rise and go to Je - sus; He will em-brace me in His arms;

in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thousand charms.

TEXT: Joseph Hart, 1759
 MUSIC: from *Southern Harmony*, 1835

RESTORATION
 87.87 with chorus

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy was first titled "Come, and Welcome, to Jesus Christ" when Joseph Hart wrote and published it in 1759. The original seven-verse hymn has since been edited a handful of times over the years, including the addition of its refrain, "I will arise and go to Jesus."

Hart's hymn lyrics reflect what we know of his own spiritual journey. He says of his early years, "As I had the happiness of being born of believing parents, I imbibed the sound doctrine of the Gospel from my infancy...but the impressions were not deep, nor the influences lasting, being frequently defaced and quenched by the vanities and vices of childhood and youth." Even though he was taught the gospel, Hart spent many years in prodigal rebellion, chasing the desires of the world.

Hart reflects honestly, "I was a moderate sufferer, but a monstrous sinner." Even when he began to believe some truths of the gospel again, he drifted into heresy, even publishing an essay against contemporary preacher John Wesley called *The Unreasonableness of Religion* (of which he later repented and recanted).

But by God's grace, Joseph eventually came to true saving faith under the preaching of George Whitfield. On that Pentecost Sunday, he abandoned both his works-based religion and his sinful rebellion and believed in Christ. That day, he found comfort in the unmerited grace and mercy of God, truly realizing that "all the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him."

That truth permeates the text of this great hymn which calls the sinful, thirsty, and weary to come to Jesus. As all such believers come to find, the world may promise many pleasures, but "in the arms of my dear Savior, O, there are ten thousand charms."

Scripture to consider:

Isaiah 1:8
 Isaiah 55:1-13
 Matthew 11:28-30
 Luke 15:11-32
 John 7:37-39
 Revelation 22:17