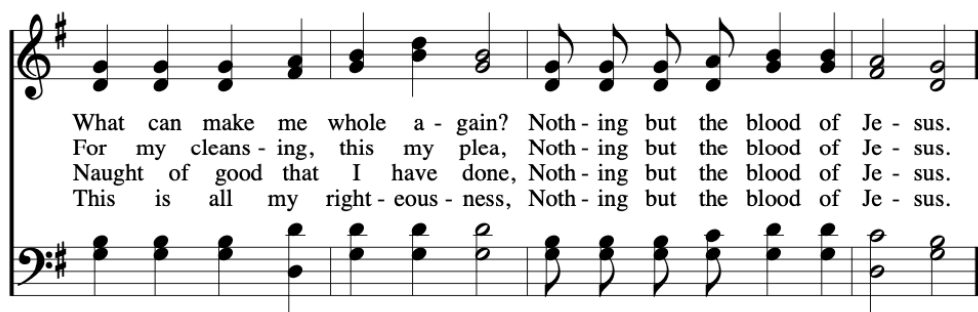


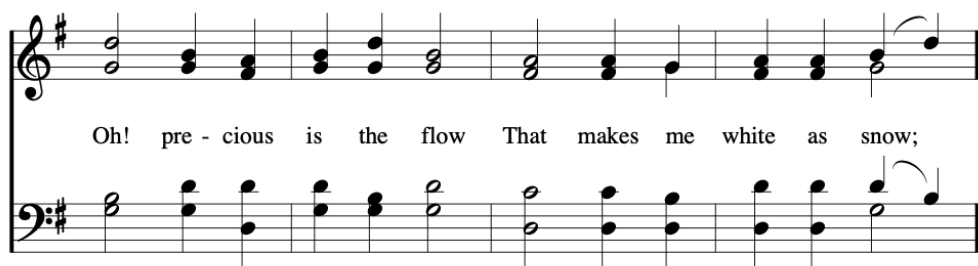
# Nothing but the Blood



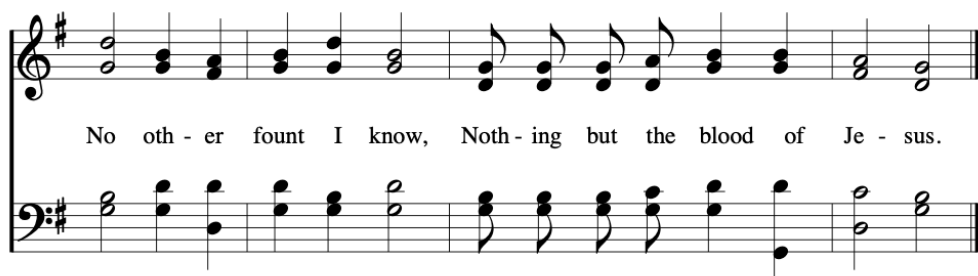
1. What can wash a - way my sin? Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus;  
 2. For my par - don this I see, Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus;  
 3. Noth - ing can for sin a - tone, Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus;  
 4. This is all my hope and peace, Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus;



What can make me whole a - gain? Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.  
 For my cleans - ing, this my plea, Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.  
 Naught of good that I have done, Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.  
 This is all my right - eous - ness, Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.



Oh! pre - cious is the flow That makes me white as snow;



No oth - er fount I know, Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.

**N**othing but the Blood was written by popular hymn writer Robert Lowry ("Shall We Gather at the River," "Christ Arose," "How Can I Keep from Singing?") in 1876 for a Christian camp called Ocean Grove in New Jersey.

Unusual for his time, Lowry composed both lyrics and music. Many of his hymns are among the most well-known today, but that was furthest from his intention. In his own words, "*I would rather preach a gospel sermon to an appreciative, receptive congregation than write a hymn.*" His focus as a pastor was on the regular preaching of God's word. Nevertheless, after faithfully feeding his flock, he would spend most Sunday evenings sitting at his little pump organ at home composing lyrics and melodies in response to his study of Scripture.

Unsurprisingly, then, he describes "Nothing but the Blood" as a "simple add-on" to the regular preaching and revival happening at Ocean Grove the summer of 1876. But, ever the intentional composer, Lowry packs every note and word with intention. Notice how the bass part (lowest notes) only has two different notes/chords but supports a soaring, recognizable melody. Notice how the lyrics use simple call-and-response repetition, but employ rich internal rhymes ("oh...flow...snow") and consonance ("what can wash," "this I see"). Using all of these tools, Lowry captured the hearts and minds of thousands to center on and unite them in "nothing but the blood of Jesus."

In similar fashion, Lowry's "simple add-on" hobby year after year produced over 500 hymns, leaving a legacy of gospel-centered music. His obituary ends this way: "*melodies and songs were but the expression of the man's heart and his character, and they attracted all men to him.*" May our lives do the same, not with our egos and talents and accomplishments, but with the simple blood of Jesus.

## Scripture to consider:

Psalm 51  
 Isaiah 53  
 Luke 22-23

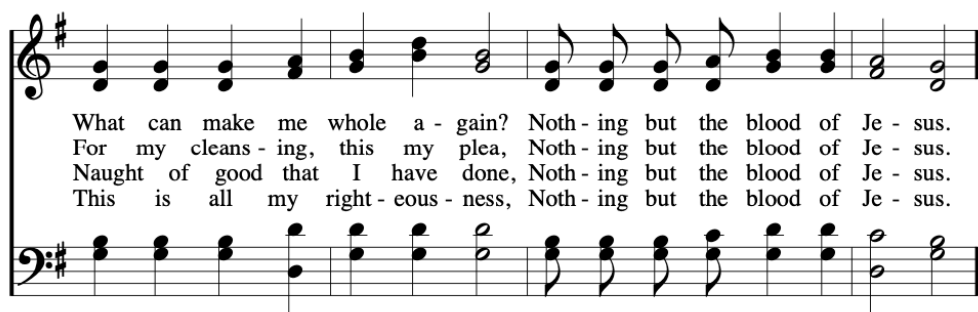
Romans 5  
 Ephesians 1:3-14  
 Ephesians 2:1-10

Hebrews 9  
 Revelation 7:9-17

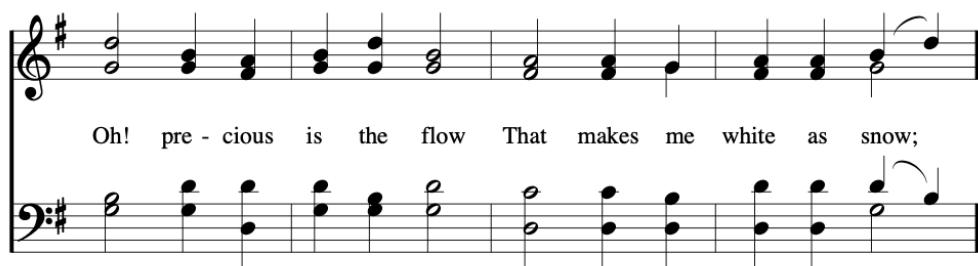
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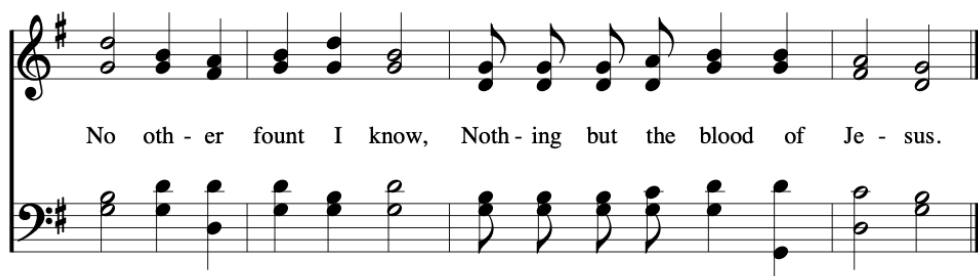
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