



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.5, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

08/06/08

Program 50 "Awaiting On You All" © George Harrison

The Song ^{1,2} –

- From George Harrison's *All Things Must Pass* -- the first triple album by a solo artist
 - Recorded and released after the break-up of The Beatles.
 - Ranked #437 on *Rolling Stone's* list of 500 greatest albums of all time.
 - Certified 6X Platinum – the best-selling album by a solo Beatle
 - Co-produced by Phil Spector, renowned for his "wall-of-sound" approach
- Theme: the search for God and freedom from the pollution of the world
- Blends elements of Krishna movement with Christianity

The Artist ^{1,2} – George Harrison

- Legendary member of the Beatles; career blossomed after the group disbanded
- "If Lennon's studio was his soap-box, then Harrison's was his pulpit"²
- Other hits – "While My Guitar Gently Weeps", "Something", "Here Comes the Sun", "My Sweet Lord", "What Is Life", "Taxman", "Bangla Desh", "Give Me Love (Give Me Peace On Earth)"
- (See note pages for Program #4, "My Sweet Lord", for additional background info)

You don't need no love in
 You don't need no bed pan
 You don't need a horoscope or a microscope
 To see the mess that you're in
 If you open up your heart
 You will know what I mean
 We've been polluted so long
 Now here's a way for you to get clean

Harrison says we're in a mess, and it should be obvious to each of us that we live in a sin-scarred, fallen world. We really don't need anyone or anything to enlighten us to that fact.

"...sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned" – Romans 5:12

What do you think Harrison means by reference to pollution? The effects of sin? The trappings of religion? What is his remedy?

By chanting the names of the Lord and you'll be free
 The Lord is awaiting on you all to awaken and see
 Chanting the names of the Lord and you'll be free
 The Lord is awaiting on you all to awaken and see

Unfortunately, he sees "chanting" as the solution

"And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words" – Matthew 6:7, NKJV

- He cites "Lord"; who do you think he refers to?
- Who was "Lord" in his hit "My Sweet Lord"?
- How do you think Harrison was influenced by his involvement with Eastern religions?

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Things_Must_Pass

² <http://www.superseventies.com/harrison1.html>

You don't need no passport
 And you don't need no visas
 You don't need to designate or to emigrate
 Before you can see **Jesus**
 If you open up your heart
 You'll see He's right there
 Always was and will be
 He'll relieve you of your cares

Some associate Christianity with the Western world. What does the Bible say?

"...there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"
 – Romans 10:12

How do these lyrics compare to those in the Christian classic, "He Was There All The Time"?

By chanting the names of the Lord and you'll be free }
 The Lord is awaiting on you all to awaken and see }
 Chanting the names of the Lord and you'll be free }
 The Lord is awaiting on you all to awaken and see }

"You, my brothers, were called to be free"
 – Galatians 5:13

"...you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" – John 8:32

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" – John 14:6

You don't need no church house
 And you don't need no Temple
 You don't need no rosary beads or them books to read
 To see that you have fallen
 If you open up your heart
 You will know what I mean
 We've been kept down so long
 Someone's thinking that we're all green

Some folks believe you must be in a church building at an altar, in response to an altar call to exercise saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Can you think of any "trappings" of Christianity as it is commonly practiced?

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery"
 – Galatians 5:1

And while the Pope owns 51% of General Motors
 And the stock exchange is the only thing he's qualified to quote us
 The Lord is awaiting on you all to awaken and see
 By chanting the names of the Lord and you'll be free

We couldn't find any solid evidence to support this assertion

Let's focus on the Word of God. We are all qualified to study and quote it!

Final thoughts:

George Harrison is remembered as one of the most spiritual of the Beatles – a true seeker, consistently occupied with a search for the truth. From the lyrics of this song, it is clear that he believed (at least at the point he penned these lyrics) in Jesus as one who *"...will relieve you of your cares"*. It is also apparent that he longed for a genuine, uncluttered relationship with God. We should all desire the same!

If I could change a few of the lyrics in this song, I would not hesitate to sing it in public worship. One change would involve the first line of the chorus – substituting the words – "By calling on the name of the Lord and you'll be free".

Amen!
