



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

9/2/09

Program 99 "Easy Livin'" © Ken Hensley



The Song ¹

- Heavy metal number from '72 album *Demons and Wizards* by Uriah Heep
- Entered the US Top 40 at #39, making it the group's first American hit
- Mega hit in New Zealand and Germany, where the band developed a strong market
- Lyrics can be viewed in the context of one's search for God

The Group – Uriah Heep ²

- English heavy metal rock band, formed in '69 from members of The Gods and Spice
- Named after a character in Charles Dickens' novel *David Copperfield*
- Known for heavy organ and guitar-driven sound, melodic songs, multi-part harmony backing vocals, and their fantasy-themed album covers
- Have sold 30+ million albums worldwide
- Extremely popular in the UK and continental Europe; limited success in U.S.
- Released several commercially successful albums in the '70s, but their audience in the US and UK declined by the '80s to virtually a cult band
- Enjoys a significant following in Germany, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, the Balkans, Japan and Russia, where they still perform at stadium-sized venues
- Keyboardist / songwriter Ken Hensley dominated the group until leaving in '80
- Numerous personnel changes – between '69 and '80, changed drummers 5 times, bassists 4 times, and lead singers twice; current lineup features 1 original member

This is a thing I've
Never known before
It's called easy livin'
This is a place I've
Never seen before
And I've been **forgiven**

- When one accepts Jesus Christ into their life as Savior, they become a new creation; i.e., they enter "...a place [they've] never seen before"
*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the **new** has come!"* – 2 Corinthians 5:17
*"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a **new** life"* – Rom. 6:4
- Forgiveness is a central theme in the Scriptures
*"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and **brought us into the kingdom** of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the **forgiveness** of sins"* -- Colossians 1:13-14
- *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."* -- Psalm 103:12

¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demons_and_Wizards_\(Uriah_Heep_album\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demons_and_Wizards_(Uriah_Heep_album))

² [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uriah_Heep_\(band\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uriah_Heep_(band))

Easy livin' and I've been forgiven
Since you've taken
Your place in my heart

- Is new life in Christ "easy livin'"? When we identify with Him:
"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first"
– Jn 15:18
"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all" – Psalm 34:19, NAS
"...everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" – 2 Timothy 3:12
- We are still subject to the effects of a fallen world
"...I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ..." – Mat. 5:44-45

Somewhere along the lonely road
I had tried to find you
Day after day on that windy road
I had walked behind you

Just think of all the musicians we have covered on Cross Connection, and roads they took in their search for God!
"Time after time I went searching for peace in some void... and all of the while someone was waiting to free me from sin... He was there all the time...waiting patiently in line..."³

Easy livin' and I've been forgiven
Since you've taken
Your place in my heart

- What are some **benefits** of accepting Christ into our heart?
- We need not fear death or wonder what it brings -- *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"* – 1 Cor. 3:9
 - Life has purpose; Paul said, *"...I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection"* – Philippians 3:10
 - Joy -- *"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy"* -- 1 Peter 1:8
- (Consider and discuss the significance of **repentance**, and the requisite recognition of our sinful condition)

Waiting, watching
Wishing my whole life away
Dreaming, thinking
Ready for my happy day
And some easy livin'

No need to dream, wish, watch or wait!
"In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation" – 2 Corinthians 6:2

Final Thought –

Living for Jesus doesn't guarantee "Easy Livin'" by any earthly perspective, but God does promise us His presence, His guidance, His peace, and an eternal hope!

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³ from "He Was There All The Time", © 1975 Gary S. Paxton