



"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

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Program 77 "Give Me My Rapture" © Van Morrison

When Christians talk about rapture, they typically mean the rapture of the church, in which the bodies of believers – both dead and alive – are caught up to meet the Lord Jesus in the air. In its generic sense, "rapture" is an English word that means "snatched up" or "caught up." It stems from the same Latin root as "raptor" – i.e., the kind of birds such as eagles, hawks and falcons who swoop down and "snatch up" their prey.¹ The word rapture is not used in common English translations of the Bible, but the concept is evident in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 –

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

The song featured in this program uses the word rapture in several places. Let's find and discuss the Cross Connection!

The Song

- Upbeat number written by legendary singer-songwriter Van Morrison
- Shares Morrison's Christian roots, faith and commitment
- Describes rapture in terms of a personal experience (vs. Rapture of the Church)
- Phrased as a prayer to the Lord

The Artist – Van Morrison (1945-)²

- (For detailed background on Van Morrison, see notes for Program 41)
- Singer, songwriter, author, poet and multi-instrumentalist from Belfast N. Ireland
- Style blends folk, blues, soul, jazz, gospel, and Ulster Scots, Celtic influences
- Solo hits include "Brown Eyed Girl", "Moondance", "Domino" and "Wild Night"
 - Has written / recorded several lesser-known but spiritually-inspired songs
- Rose to prominence in '64 as lead singer of Them, writing the classic hit, "Gloria"
- 5-decade career; numerous awards and honors; continues to perform today

There are strange things happening every day
I hear music up above my head
Fill me up with Your wonder
Give me my rapture today

"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" – Colossians 3:2

- What do you think is meant by "my rapture"?
- Is the rapture physical? emotional? spiritual?

(Regarding "strange things happening", read and discuss Luke 21:25-28)

¹ <http://www.biblestudy.org/beginner/definition-of-christian-terms/rapture.html>

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Van_Morrison

Let me contemplate the presence so divine
Let me sing all day and never get tired
Fill me up from Your loving cup
Give me my rapture



A request to draw joy and strength from God

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” – Ephesians 6:10

“...the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation” – Isaiah 12:2b,3, KJV

Won't you guide me through
the dark night of the soul
That I may better understand Your way
Let me be just and worthy to receive
All the blessings of the Lord into my life

*“Let him who walks **in the dark**, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God” – Isaiah 50:10*

*“Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:” -- Romans 5:1*

Let me purify my thoughts and words and deeds
That I may be a vehicle for Thee
Let me hold to the truth in the darkest hour
Let me sing to the glory of the Lord
Give me my rapture today

*“I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin; Fulfill Thy word, and **make me pure within**. Fill me with fire, where once I burned with shame Grant my desire to magnify Thy name”³*

“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord” – Ephesians 5:19

(Repeats)

Final Thoughts:

When was the last time you asked God to fill you with a sense of His divine presence? To purify you to live a life that honors Him? To be made a vehicle for Him amidst the spiritual darkness pervading this world?

In “Give Me My Rapture”, Van Morrison has beautifully described how to live a life of spiritual victory in the here and now. When we live this way, we can enjoy our life and calling, while resting assured of the wonderful future God has already planned for us! We can be “caught up” in Jesus now, so we can be “caught up” with Him when He returns for His Church soon!



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³ Stanza from “Cleanse Me”, a hymn written in 1936 by Dr. J. Edwin Orr