



"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

04/09/08

Program 32 – "I Believe In You" © Bob Dylan

This song by the legendary Bob Dylan is a prayer. And it's all about standing up for the Lord Jesus Christ in a world hostile to Him. If you are a Christian, be assured – your faith will be tested. There is a spirit of antichrist in our world – a spirit of paradox which preaches religious tolerance while promoting persecution of Christians and suppression of Christianity with the backing of political-correctness. It makes no sense. It's a weird, jaw-dropping contradiction that defies human explanation. Scriptures even warn believers not to be "surprised" by it, "...as though something strange were happening to you" --

*"Dear friends, **do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.** But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. **If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you**" – 1 Peter 4:12-14*

But what you are witnessing and experiencing is not natural – rather, it's a supernatural hatred of God – aimed at you because you stand for Him.

*"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. **If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.**"
– John 15:18-19*

*"**All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved**" – Matthew 10:22*

Here's what Bob Dylan encountered when he shared his faith through song --

"...the song, I Believe in You, which concerns being cast out due to unpopular religious beliefs, seemingly set the stage for a six-month tour - starting on November 1, 1979 - to promote the album. Dylan would not play older compositions - radio ads and other media material informed fans of the tour structure - and **he oftentimes spent portions of the concerts lecturing hecklers who yelled out song requests or derided him for his Christian beliefs.**

But what was lost in much of the critical noise then is Dylan's powerful messages of protest/patriotism, fellowship, friendship and love - themes that he had written about in the past - were given additional meaning when a rainbow of promise & hope appeared in his life. **That he wanted to share his faith with others made his personal mission to spread the gospel even more wondrous.**"¹

¹ <http://www.amazon.com/review/R2PJAXHN9649XA>

They ask me how I feel
And if my love is real
And how I know I'll make it through.
And they, they look at me and frown,
They'd like to drive me from this town,
They don't want me around
'Cause I believe in you.

1 Peter 3:15 says: "...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

[a crowd at Lystra] "...stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city" – Acts 14:19-20

They show me to the door,
They say don't come back no more
'Cause I don't be like they'd like me to,
And I walk out on my own
A thousand miles from home
But I don't feel alone
'Cause I believe in you.

"If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town" – Matthew 10:14

"The Lord is near... the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" – Philippians 4:5b, 7

I believe in you even through the tears and the laughter,
I believe in you even though we be apart.
I believe in you even on the morning after.
Oh, when the dawn is nearing
Oh, when the night is disappearing
Oh, this feeling is still here in my heart.

...the God of the good times, is still God in the bad times

...the God of the day is still God in the night

-- From "God On The Mountain", by the McKameys

Don't let me drift too far,
Keep me where you are
Where I will always be renewed.
And that which you've given me today
Is worth more than I could pay
And no matter what they say
I believe in you.

**After all the things that you have shown me
I'd be a fool to let them slip away
I'm doing things I know I shouldn't do
But I don't want to fall away from you**

-- From "I Don't Want To Fall Away From You", by Keith Green

I believe in you when winter turn to summer,
I believe in you when white turn to black,
I believe in you even though I be outnumbered.
Oh, though the earth may shake me
Oh, though my friends forsake me
Oh, even that couldn't make me go back.

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell" – Mat. 10:24

"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."
—Luke 9:62, NIV

Don't let me change my heart,
Keep me set apart
From all the plans they do pursue.
And I, I don't mind the pain
Don't mind the driving rain
I know I will sustain
'Cause I believe in you.

"...in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord"
– 1 Pet 3:15a

Jude tells us that Jesus "...is able to keep you from falling" – Jude 1:24

Final Thoughts –

Jesus warned -- "*I am sending you out like sheep among wolves*" (Mat. 10:16). He also instructed us to "*...let your light shine before men...*" (Mat. 5:16). **Will you?**

* * * * *