



"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

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Program 59 "Is That All There Is?" © 1968 Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller

There are certain events that force us to confront and consider the essence of life – its meaning, its brevity, its purpose. Such events could include marriage, adult children leaving home, retirement, loss of a loved one, or surviving a life-threatening situation. Philosophers term this an "existential crisis". For those who place their trust in the true and living God, the Holy Bible provides answers to life's fundamental questions. Those who do not must bear the onerous weight of defining life's meaning for themselves.

One source indicates, "An existential crisis results from the sense of being alone and isolated, grasping one's mortality; a belief that there is no afterlife or that the afterlife is negative; and believing that one's life has no purpose or external meaning."¹ It further notes that, "Typically, ***a lack of religious faith is prerequisite for suffering an existential crisis***: the sudden awareness of not knowing the meaning and purpose of one's life, and consequent awareness of impending, inevitable, personal doom." (emphasis added).

Today's featured song, made popular by artist Peggy Lee, describes introspection of one who becomes disappointed with life. Finding the Cross Connection in this one is easy, as God's Word clearly provides hope to the searching soul – the hope that only Jesus gives!

The Song ²

- Recorded by Peggy Lee in 1969. Originally recorded by Leslie Uggams in 1968
- Hit #1 on the *Adult Contemporary* chart; Peggy Lee's 1st Top 40 pop hit in 11 years
- Named to the Grammy Hall of Fame
- Written from perspective of a person disillusioned with significant events in life, who chooses not to worry, but rather, to escape through drunkenness and revelry
- Inspired by the story "Disillusionment" by Thomas Mann, written in 1896
 - Most of the lyrics of the chorus are actually spoken in the story

The Artist – Peggy Lee (1920-2002) ³

- Born Norma Deloris Egstrom in Jamestown, North Dakota
- American jazz and popular music singer, songwriter and actress.
- Seventh of eight children -- her mother died when Peggy was four years old.
- Found music an escape from an abusive stepmother, who tormented and beat her
- Left home at 17 – was eventually added as singer with the Benny Goodman band
- First # 1 hit, "Somebody Else Is Taking My Place," in 1942
- Most famous for today's featured song, and her cover version of "Fever"
- Acted in several films, including "The Jazz Singer" and "Pete Kelly's Blues"
- Received or was nominated for numerous awards for her many accomplishments

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

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

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peggy_Lee

I remember when I was a very little girl, our house caught on fire.
I'll never forget the look on my father's face as he gathered me up
in his arms and raced through the burning building out to the pavement.
I stood there shivering in my pajamas and watched the whole world go up in flames.
And when it was all over I said to myself, "Is that all there is to a fire?"

Is that all there is, is that all there is
If that's all there is my friends, then let's keep dancing
Let's break out the booze and have a ball
If that's all there is

- What are your expectations of life?
- Read through the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. The writer (King Solomon) found no satisfaction – everything he did turned out to be meaningless until he focused on living for God

And when I was 12 years old, my father took me to a circus, the greatest show on earth.
There were clowns and elephants and dancing bears.
And a beautiful lady in pink tights flew high above our heads.
And so I sat there watching the marvelous spectacle.
I had the feeling that something was missing.
I don't know what, but when it was over,
I said to myself, "Is that all there is to a circus?"

- What events in your life have led you to ponder the meaning of your life?
- Where have you put your faith and trust?

chorus

Then I fell in love, head over heels in love, with the most wonderful boy in the world.
We would take long walks by the river or just sit for hours gazing into each other's eyes.
We were so very much in love.
Then one day he went away and I thought I'd die, but I didn't,
and when I didn't I said to myself, "Is that all there is to love?"

chorus

I know what you must be saying to yourselves,
if that's the way she feels about it why doesn't she just end it all?
Oh, no, not me. I'm in no hurry for that final disappointment,
for I know just as well as I'm standing here talking to you,
when that final moment comes and I'm breathing my last breath, I'll be saying to myself...

- She dismisses the notion of suicide, thinking death too will be a disappointment
- Dying without Jesus is unimaginably horrifying; it should motivate us to witness to the lost!
- *"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints"* – Psalm 116:15

chorus

"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope"
– 1 Thessalonians 4:13, NIV

Final thoughts:

The name of the church I attend is "Hope". That's exactly what believers in Jesus Christ have – for today, tomorrow, and all eternity. God did not make a mistake when He gave you life and placed you on this earth. You have a God-ordained purpose, but you can only recognize that purpose by knowing God personally through faith in Jesus Christ. You will see, as songwriter Bill Gaither penned, that *"...life is worth the living just because He lives!"*

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"

– Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

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