



## "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 69 "My Jesus Told Me So"

© Toy Caldwell

Forget political correctness. Brush aside unfounded comments from others telling you how you should live. This song hits the nail on the head when author Toy Caldwell simply says "I live my life the good old gospel way". Why? Because "My Jesus told me so".

### The Song <sup>1</sup>

- Recorded at Capricorn Recording Studio, Macon GA in 1973 as one of eight songs written by Toy Caldwell on the Marshall Tucker Band's self-titled debut album
  - Other songs on the album include "Can't You See" and "Take The Highway"
- Presents a testimony of Toy Caldwell's beliefs and values
  - Married in the 1960s, Caldwell consistently and faithfully called home to check on his wife Abbie and children throughout his many years of extensive touring. He remained married to her until his untimely death in 1993.

### The Group – The Marshall Tucker Band <sup>2</sup>

- American Southern rock band originally from Spartanburg, South Carolina
  - Named after a blind piano tuner in Spartanburg
- Formed in 1972 with founding members Doug Gray (vocalist), George McCorkle (rhythm guitarist), Paul Riddle (drummer), Jerry Eubanks (flutist), and brothers Toy (lead guitar) and Tommy Caldwell (bassist and front man)
  - Both Caldwelles, Gray and McCorkle served in the armed forces, 1966-1969
- Charlie Daniels played fiddle on many of the bands early albums
- Hits include -- "Can't You See", "Fire on the Mountain", "This Ol' Cowboy", "Long Hard Ride", "24 Hours At A Time", "Ramblin'" and "Heard It in a Love Song" (#14, *Billboard* Hot 100 in '77)
- Released over 30 albums to date, including 5 gold and 3 platinum
- Three band members have passed away:
  - Tommy Caldwell died from injuries sustained in a Jeep accident in 1980
  - Toy Caldwell passed away in his sleep from heart disease in 1993
  - George McCorkle died of cancer in 2007
- Continues to tour extensively, with original member Doug Gray – 150 shows a year!

I guess I'm traveling, my last mile  
Don't feel like, I've got a place to go  
Just been here thinkin',  
if I got somethin' in this  
life to show

But I go through life the best way  
And when people ask me how I know

- Perhaps a foreshadowing of the tragedies ahead for Marshall Tucker Band members
- Similar to words in an old hymn...

*And if here I have earnestly striven,  
And have tried all His will to obey,  
'Twill enhance all the rapture of heaven,  
When I've gone the last mile of the way*<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Marshall\\_Tucker\\_Band\\_\(album\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Marshall_Tucker_Band_(album))

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Marshall\\_Tucker\\_Band](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Marshall_Tucker_Band)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.geocities.com/scubadog.geo/toybio.html>

<sup>4</sup> from "The Last Mile Of The Way", Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1908, public domain

I just tell them my Jesus, told me so  
I just tell them my Jesus, told me so

You hear a lot of stories  
About the life you're supposed to live  
All the sins you've done  
The good Lord will forgive

(Chorus)

Maybe I'm wrong  
Nobody knows for sure  
But I live my life the old gospel way

Well I guess, I'll soon be dying  
Just like a river, somewhere it stops to flow  
But I know I'm right about life  
And when people ask me how I know  
I just tell them my Jesus, told me so  
I just tell them my Jesus, told me so

I just tell them my Jesus, told me so  
He's the only one who really knows  
I just tell them my Jesus, told me so  
He's the only one who really knows  
I just tell them my Jesus, told me so  
I'm gonna look 'em in the eyes  
And tell 'em Lord my Jesus told me so



Often the expectations of other believers can become an onerous burden to us. But the Apostle Paul said –  
*“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, NIV

Jesus also told us – *“...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”* – Mat. 10:10b, NIV

*“As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us”* – Psalm 103:12

Paul explained -- *“Christ lives in me, and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me”* -- Galatians 2:20

“I’ll soon be dying” – keep in mind that this lyric was penned by a fellow who was 36 at the time!

How does Jesus tell us?

- The written Word of God – the Bible
  - *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”* – 2 Tim. 3:16, NIV
- The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives
  - *“God has chosen to communicate to His children through the Holy Spirit (see Acts 11:12). He is God’s mouthpiece to believers. When God chooses to speak directly to you, it is through the Holy Spirit.”*<sup>5</sup>

## **Final Thoughts:**

Have others ever told you how to live? The Bible gives us instruction for how to address sinful behavior of fellow believers, e.g., – “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted” (Galatians 6:1). But when it comes to areas of our life in which we should enjoy the freedom Christ gave us, i.e., types of activities, behavior, dress, language, demeanor, etc., that the Word does not consider sinful, let’s resolve to put Jesus ahead of the rules, regulations and doctrines of men!

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.intouch.org/site/c.dhKHIXPKluE/b.2420761/k.7FA9/The\\_Holy\\_Spirit\\_Our\\_Guide\\_In\\_Touch\\_Ministries\\_Dr\\_Charles\\_Stanley.htm](http://www.intouch.org/site/c.dhKHIXPKluE/b.2420761/k.7FA9/The_Holy_Spirit_Our_Guide_In_Touch_Ministries_Dr_Charles_Stanley.htm)