



"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

3/25/09

Program 76 “Nothing Else Matters” © James Hetfield and Lars Ulrich

Having previously featured a song by Black Sabbath in this series, we presume the shock factor is tempered somewhat as we now spotlight a hit song by the heavy metal band Metallica. But this particular song is atypical of the group – an introspective, personal number that ponders what is important in life. Where is the Cross Connection? We can readily relate the lyrics to our personal relationship with Jesus Christ – and that’s what truly matters!

The Song ¹

- By Metallica, reached #11 on the Mainstream Rock Tracks Charts in 1992
- Written by singer and rhythm guitarist James Hetfield to a former girlfriend
 - Group now dedicates it to their fans; often includes it in live performances
- Video released in '92; removed from YouTube in '08 due to copyright dispute
- Single reached #6 in the UK
- Acoustic version backed by the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra released in '99

The Group – Metallica ²

- American heavy metal band; formed '81 in LA from respondents to a newspaper ad
- One of the "big 4" thrash metal groups along with Slayer, Megadeth, and Anthrax
- Grew popular in the underground music community
- Received critical acclaim with their '86 album *Master of Puppets*, and a more mainstream following with *Metallica* in '91, which debuted at #1 on the *Billboard 200*
- Sued Napster in '00 for sharing their copyrighted material for free without permission
- Has released 9 studio albums, 2 live albums, 2 EPs, 22 music videos, and 44 singles
- Credits: 9 Grammy Awards; 5 consecutive albums that debuted at #1 on the *Billboard 200* – an unparalleled feat; 51,136,000 albums sold in United States alone
- Their 2nd second studio album, *Ride the Lightning*, includes the song "Creeping Death", which tells the biblical story of the Hebrews' exodus from slavery in Egypt, focusing on the various plagues that were visited on the Egyptians
- Common lyrical themes include: socially conscious issues, religious and military leaders, rage, insanity, monsters, drugs, anger, loss, and retribution
- Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on April 4, 2009

So close, no matter how far
Couldn't be much more from the heart
Forever trusting who we are
and nothing else matters

(stanza repeats)

We can trust who we are in Christ because He is faithful!

In his book *Victory Over The Darkness*, Neil Anderson explains that, in Jesus, believers are: ³

- **Accepted** (Jn 1:12; Col 2:9-10; Eph 1:3-8; Rom 5:1)
- **Secure** (Rom 8:1-2; 2 Tim 1:7; 1 Jn 5:18; Col 3:1-4)
- **Significant** (Jn 15:5,16; Phil 4:13; Eph 3:12; 1 Cor 3:16)

¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People_Get_Ready_\(song\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People_Get_Ready_(song))

² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metallica>

Never opened myself this way
Life is ours, we live it our way
All these words I don't just say
and nothing else matters

- Living life “our way” is Jesus’ way, vs. worldly ways
- We cannot be “sort of” Christians – it’s all or none for Jesus
Make my life a prayer to You
I wanna do what you want me to
No empty words and no white lies
No token prayers no compromise ⁴

Trust I seek and I find in you
Every day for us something new
Open mind for a different view
and nothing else matters

- The Christian life is a Christ-led adventure. Can you pray these lines back to God?
“Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” – Lamentations 3:22-23
- Have you put God in a box? Will you open your mind to what He may do for you, and with you in His service?

never cared for what they do
never cared for what they know
but I know

So close, no matter how far
Couldn't be much more from the heart
Forever trusting who we are
and nothing else matters

- Compare these lyrics to those in “Jesus Is Just Alright” –
I don't care what they may say
I don't care what they may do...
I don't care what they may know
I don't care where they may go...
Jesus is just alright... (see Program 10 notes)
- Several atheists believe Christians are deluded and/or mentally ill to believe in God. How do you deal with attacks on your faith?
“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” – Jn 6:67-68
“Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man” – Luke 6:22

never cared for what they do
never cared for what they know
but I know

Never opened myself this way
Life is ours, we live it our way
All these words I don't just say
And nothing else matters

Trust I seek and I find in you
Every day for us, something new
Open mind for a different view
and nothing else matters

never cared for what they say
never cared for games they play
never cared for what they do
never cared for what they know
and I know

- The Lord is **always** close to us, no matter how far away it may seem that He is, or how alone we may feel –
- He lives in us (Colossians 1:27)
 - He will never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5)
- Our relationship with God is a matter of the heart
“My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways” – Proverbs 23:26

So close, no matter how far
Couldn't be much more from the heart
Forever trusting who we are
No, nothing else matters

Final Thoughts –

What matters most to you in life? Why? Do you, or should you believe that “nothing else matters”? Why or why not?

³ <http://www.christiangoth.com/whoyouareprinterversion.htm>

⁴ From “Make My Life A Prayer”, by Keith Green