



## "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 75 "People Get Ready" © Curtis Mayfield

Have you ever heard the old song, "Life's Railway To Heaven"? Secular music has also featured a variety of songs that employ the image of an approaching train – e.g., "Peace Train" by Cat Stevens, "Slow Train Coming" by Bob Dylan, "Love Train" by the O'Jays, "Long Train Runnin'" by the Doobie Brothers, and "Midnight Train To Georgia" by Gladys Knight and the Pips, just to name a few. Many of them, including the number we feature today – "People Get Ready" – present a train image metaphorically, encouraging us to "get on board" to promote love and unity, a worthy cause, or faith that leads us to God and Heaven.



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

- 1965 single by The Impressions, the group's best-known hit, reaching #3 on the Billboard R&B Chart and #14 on the Billboard Pop Chart
- Gospel-influenced number – authored by Curtis Mayfield of The Impressions
- Named 24<sup>th</sup> greatest song of all time by Rolling Stone magazine
- Included in The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll.
- Chosen as one of the *Top 10 Best Songs Of All Time* by a panel of 20 top industry songwriters and producers, including Paul McCartney, Brian Wilson, Hal David
- Covered by a "Who's Who" of artists, including:
  - Bob Marley, Dionne Warwick, The Everly Brothers, Bob Dylan, Vanilla Fudge, Jeff Beck, Rod Stewart, Phil Collins, John Denver, Steve Perry, U2, Aretha Franklin, Margaret Becker, The Chambers Brothers, John Oates, Seal, The Doors, The Blind Boys of Alabama, Alicia Keys, and NewSong
- John Mayer's "Waiting on the World to Change" uses same chord structure / rhythm

### The Group – The Chambers Brothers <sup>2</sup>

- Soul music group, best known for their '68 hit "Time Has Come Today"
- Formed in '64 in LA, California by four brothers from Mississippi:
  - George, Willie, Lester and Joe Chambers
- Toured extensively across southern California before achieving nationwide success in 1965 at the Newport Folk Festival
- Also recorded their debut album *People Get Ready* in 1965
- "Time Has Come Today" (by Joe & Willie Chambers) was their 1<sup>st</sup> major hit
  - Held #11 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart for 5 consecutive weeks
- Group found it difficult to build on initial success and disbanded in '72
- Reformed in '74 to record *Unbonded*, and have toured regularly since

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People\\_Get\\_Ready\\_\(song\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People_Get_Ready_(song))

<sup>2</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Chambers\\_Brothers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chambers_Brothers)

People get ready, there's a train a comin'  
 You don't need no baggage, you just get on board  
 All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin'  
 Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord



- What does the train represent?
- After telling us to “get ready”, the author says we don’t need baggage. Why?
- *“...In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation* – 2 Corinthians 6:2b, NIV
- Jesus purchased your ticket – thank Him!
- God *“...wants us in Heaven, but we cannot afford the ticket to get there. Therefore, at His expense, God paid the price for our Heaven ticket. He then made the ticket free to us, even though it cost Him the life of His Son.”*<sup>3</sup>
- See notes for “Free Ride” (Program 53)

People get ready for the train to Jordan  
 It's picking up passengers from coast to coast  
 Faith is the key, open the doors and board 'em  
 There's hope for all among those loved the most.

- Faith is the key to accepting our ticket
- *“...the righteous man shall live by faith”* – Galatians 3:11b, NIV
  - Also Hab 2:4; Rom 1:17; and Heb 10:38
- Do you agree with this? Who does God love the most? See John 3:16 and 2 Peter 3:9

There ain't no room for the hopeless sinner  
 Who would hurt all mankind just to save his own  
 Have pity on those whose chances grow thinner  
 For there's no hiding place against the Kingdom's throne

- There may be no room on the train to heaven for sinners, but there is definitely hope for those willing to turn from sin
- Think of what the apostle Paul had done before he said, *“...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst”* – 1 Tim 1:15b
  - Who has God given up on?
- Ours is a God of justice as well as love

So people get ready, there's a train a comin'  
 You don't need no baggage, you just get on board  
 All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin'  
 Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord

## Final Thoughts --

Do you hear that train to Heaven coming? Are you already on it? No need to pack your bags or buy a ticket... Just get on board and thank the Lord... today!

You can buy a ticket for a boat You can buy a ticket for a plane You can buy a ticket for a subway But you can't buy a ticket for that heavenly train!	Jesus is your ticket to Heaven Lord, it's gonna be so nice Jesus is your ticket to Heaven He's already paid the price <sup>4</sup>
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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.heavenlyresources.com/favorite\\_links.html](http://www.heavenlyresources.com/favorite_links.html)

<sup>4</sup> From “Jesus Is Your Ticket To Heaven”, recorded by Ronnie Milsap and various other artists

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