It Is Well With My Soul

Zanesville, OH | August 18, 2019 | John Pollard | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Phil. 4:4-13

**Intro**:

* We sometimes sing a song from our hymnals entitled, *“It is well with my soul.”* It is such a beautiful hymn and one that speaks to the adverse nature of what life sometimes has in store for us. It was written in 1873 by a gentleman named Horatio G. Spafford. I want to encourage you this morning to think about the words of this song as we read them and make some key points from them. Our goal is to look at each verse and glean a spiritual and scriptural perspective from each one and apply it in our lives so that when we leave here today, we can have the kind of confidence and trust expressed by Mr. Spafford in this hymn.

1. **Verse 1: No matter what happens, if we are with God, everything will be okay**
   1. Sometimes life is great and everything falls into place exactly where we want it, when we want it and how we want it but what happens when that stops? What do we do when things start to get chaotic and frustrating?
   2. If one is not with God, there isn’t much to look forward to. The reality is that this life is it and when it’s going great, then no problem. But when all the dominoes begin to fall, then comes depression, anxiety and an increasing sense of hopelessness.
   3. For the individual who trusts God and whose trust is God (Jer. 17:7) whether I get dealt a deck of good cards or a deck of bad ones, I can say with confidence, like Mr. Spafford, it is well with my soul!
2. **Verse 2: Temptations and trials will come but we must focus on Jesus’ sacrifice**
   1. The devil is alive and well and his goal is to make us all fall (1 Pet. 5:8). No matter how good our lives are we can always count on trials popping up along the way. The individual who relies on God says, “I choose to not let those things control me.”
   2. Instead, what really moves me and controls me is that reality that Jesus looked at my helplessness, my harrowing sinful state and He chose to give His innocent life in my stead (Rom. 5:6-8). The act that Jesus went through for us will should always grab at our attention more than any trial or temptation we face. It is because of such things we must turn to the cross and seek help.
3. **Verse 3: Jesus came to take away the greatest problem we will ever have**
   1. Christ’s sacrificial offering is what ultimately makes my soul well. It is the refreshment our spirit needs and the healing are soul desperately craves. Remember, Mr. Spafford lost most of his assets, his only son and then his four daughters.
   2. One could look at his situation and say those were his biggest problems but he himself rightly said that sin is the greatest problem he would ever deal with. I cannot imagine what he must have been going through but we can all sympathize with the fact that we know what sin is like and what it can and will do to us.
   3. How great the salvation in Jesus is that He was not only willing to take part of our sin away but all of it. He came to fix the greatest problem we will ever face. Knowing this, we should praise the Lord. We ought to give Him thanksgiving but the greatest form of thanksgiving we can show to Him is to obey His word and save our souls (1 Pet. 3:21)!
4. **Verse 4: The Faithful look forward to the day when Christ will return**
   1. When I am saved and only when everything is truly well with my soul, can I say, “Lord come quickly!” On that day faith will become sight. Man’s greatest hope will be realized when they see their creator face to face provided that his faith rests in God.
   2. When Christ returns, the faithful will be exhilarated and exonerated. There is no greater feeling and there will be no greater experience that seeing the clouds rolled back and hearing the sound of the trumpet break forth and the glorious resurrected Christ comes to gather His children to be with Him forever and ever in Heaven where sorrows cease, trials and temptations are done away with and comfort and peace is realized in its greatest sense.

**Conclusion:** This song, this hymn is such a powerful illustration of reliance upon God regardless of circumstances on this side of eternity. Based on our study, can you say with confidence, it is truly well with your soul? Have you received the forgiveness of sins by obeying God’s pattern for salvation? Have you confessed Jesus as your Lord, repented of your sins and been baptized into His death? Is there some things you might need to change? May we take advantage of these opportunities now and make our souls right with God.