

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:  
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.  
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;  
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

# In the Cross of Christ I Glory 213

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the  
 5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing

o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the cross for -  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the ra - diance  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that knows no  
 o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sa - cred

sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.  
 sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

Like Isaac Watts's "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (nos. 223, 224), this hymn is a reflection on Galatians 6:14, but this text is more abstract and devotes no attention to the person hanging on the cross. The tune is named for a soloist in the composer's Connecticut choir.

# Fight the Good Fight 846

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might.  
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
 3 Cast care a - side; lean on thy guide.  
 4 Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near.

Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.  
 lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face.  
 God's bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.  
 God chang - eth not, and thou art dear.

Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;  
 Trust, and thy trust - ing soul shall prove  
 On - ly be - lieve, and thou shalt see

thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.  
 Christ is its life, and Christ its love.  
 that Christ is all in all to thee.

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle" or "grapple" or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).

## **Genesis 15:1-12 (NIV)**

The LORD's Covenant With Abram

**15** After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield,<sup>[a]</sup>  
your very great reward.<sup>[b]</sup>"

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit<sup>[c]</sup> my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring<sup>[d]</sup> be."

<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

<sup>8</sup> But Abram said, "Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

<sup>9</sup> So the LORD said to him, "Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon."

<sup>10</sup> Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. <sup>11</sup> Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

## **Philippians 3:17 - 4:1 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do.

<sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

<sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

<sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Closing Appeal for Steadfastness and Unity

**4** Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends

## **Luke 13:22-35 (NIV)** The Narrow Door

<sup>22</sup> Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.

<sup>23</sup> Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. <sup>25</sup> Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'

"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

<sup>26</sup> "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

<sup>27</sup> "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'

<sup>28</sup> "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. <sup>29</sup> People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last." Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem

<sup>31</sup> At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

<sup>32</sup> He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' <sup>33</sup> In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

<sup>34</sup> "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. <sup>35</sup> Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'<sup>[a]</sup>"