

Questions for Christmas Hymn Week 2

- The song *O Come All Ye Faithful* came about in part due to the warring of the church against itself. Religious persecution is something we have not really had to face in America. What do you think would happen if we did have religious persecution?
 - How would you feel, if like John Wade, you had to flee your homeland to be free to practice your faith?
- John Wade did not receive the credit he deserved for his authorship of *O Come All Ye Faithful*. In fact, someone else seemed to take credit for the song for a while.
 - How would you feel if you created something so inspiring that churches everywhere were using it, but you got no credit for it?
 - How would you feel if someone else took credit for it?
- There are actually a total of 8 verses for *O Come All Ye Faithful*. We usually sing three. Why do you think that is?
 - Why do we seem to stick to the verses that explain the events of the Christmas story but allow the verses that explain the theology of what happened slip into obscurity?
 - Back then, art, stories and songs are how they learned theology.
 - How knowledgeable is the average churchgoer about their theology?
 - How would we increase the average churchgoer's theological knowledge?
- When you have sung the lyrics, "O Come all ye faithful" before, have you ever considered who the faithful were?
 - Do you agree that the faithful were those awaiting the Messiah's arrival? Why or why not?
- The original second verse speaks of Jesus being "God of God" and "very God, begotten not created"
 - Why are lines like this so valuable?
 - Why do you think, in a song about Christmas, the author would include lines of such deep theology?
 - Did you realize some of these things about Jesus? That He was the very essence of God? That He was born, but not created? He was pre-existing?
- The fourth verse speaks of the shepherds leaving the cares of their flock and going to see Jesus. What cares are burdening you that you need to leave to focus on Jesus this Christmas season?
- Have you ever considered the heart of the gospel as simple as the line, "who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?"
 - Does that seem too simplistic?
 - Why do more people not respond to God's love?

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- The author of the song did not let the circumstances of life keep him from worship and devotion to Christ.
 - Do you?
 - If yes, what is keeping you from worship and devotion?
 - How can that be changed?
- The author worked long hours at a task that many did not care about, yet he viewed it as his ministry for God.
 - What is your ministry for God?
 - Are you faithful to that ministry, even when times are tough, or when that ministry seems insignificant?
 - What might help encourage you in your ministry?