

Questions Christmas Hymns Week 4

- Recall that Isaac Watts and his father shared the same name and similar personalities. What do you think of Isaac Watts Sr. being put in prison for “teaching radical ideas not approved by the church?”
 - Is that too much church control?
 - How does a church control what is taught in their local body?
- If the church were to change its name, what do you think of “Above Bar Congregational Church?”
 - In today’s world how do you think a name like that would go over with non believers?
- In the life of Isaac Watts, the theme of free thinking, independent men continues.
 - What should that tell us about people that change the face of Christianity?
 - They seem to question everything. What kind of questions do you think they ask?
 - How do we know where to draw the line between Spirit-led reimagining of the Christian life, and human led rebellion against God?
- Isaac Watts goal in life was to make church music more accessible to the common man. He endeavored to re-write familiar scripture passages with more modern speech.
 - While many have favorite translations of scripture, why do we seem to have fights in Christianity over the best or right translation?
 - What things should be preserved when we modernize scripture, or church music? What things can be changed?
- Have you ever viewed the song “Joy to the World” as not being a Christmas song?
 - Compare Psalm 98 to the lyrics of “Joy to the World” Where do you see similarities or differences?
 - Why do we think of this song as one that should only be sung at Christmas?
- Honest question. Which coming of Christ brings you more joy? Why?
- When you know what the second coming will bring to this life, what excites you most:
 - That sin will be wiped out?
 - That the eternal kingdom will be established?
 - That we will be reunited with loved ones?
 - That we will walk streets of gold?
 - That His blessings will be known as far as the curse is found?
 - That the lion and the lamb will finally be able to snuggle?
 - That we will be with Jesus forever?
- If we sang “Joy to the World” as a Second Coming Hymn, would we feel the same excitement as we do for His first coming?
- What would it take for us to shift gears in our minds about this song and think of it less as a Christmas Hymn and more as a Second Coming Hymn?