

Where Do You Stand?

“Stand up, stand up, for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross. . .” On a Sunday in 1858, The Rev. Dudley Tying addressed a sermon entitled, “Stand Up for Jesus”, to five thousand members of the Young Men’s Christian Association. A few days later he died in a tragic accident. The Rev. George Duffield Jr. was so impressed by this dying message of Dudley Tying that he penned the verses of this hymn as a conclusion to a sermon he preached based on a text from St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians. “Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.” (Ephesians 6:14)

Stand up, stand up, for Jesus The Hymnal 1982
George Duffield, Jr. (1818-1888)

- 1 Stand up, stand up, for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss:
from victory unto victory his army shall be lead,
till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.
- 2 Stand up, stand up, for Jesus; the trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict in this his glorious day:
ye that are his now serve him against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.
- 3 Stand up, stand up, for Jesus; stand in this strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own:
put on the Gospel armor, and watching unto prayer,
when duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there.
- 4 Stand up, stand up, for Jesus: the strife will not be long:
this day, the noise of battle; the next, the victor’s song.
To valiant hearts triumphant, a crown of life shall be;
they with the King of glory shall reign eternally.

A hundred and sixty years have come and gone since George Duffield wrote this hymn. Like many other modern day Christians I am not particularly drawn to its militaristic style. I do believe we are engaged in continual battle against a secular culture that places little value in Christian ideals; but I do not see us beating down our foes. Rather, I see us winning people for Christ through love and compassion. While its style does not engage me, its words, “stand up for Jesus,” ring as true today as they did in 1858 and as they did circa 63AD when St. Paul wrote the Letter to the Ephesians from his prison cell.

It’s time to stand up and be counted! We the people of St. Martin’s Church are as diverse a group as any in the Church and I am confident that each of us differs in our understanding of Christianity. But in the big picture, that is, the job that lies ahead of each of us individually and all of us collectively our diversity and differences really do not matter. What does matter is that together we stand as the body of Christ and affirm

our belief in our Lord Jesus Christ. We all stand up for Jesus and we all are willing to be counted as Jesus' followers. It is only in this way – standing up for Jesus – that the work of the Gospel can be accomplished; and the work of the Gospel is our work! Where do you stand as a Christian? In what ways are you willing to stand up for Jesus?

Fr. Al Jewson