



Singing False Doctrines?

Colossians 3:5-17

The purpose of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs is that we might be “teaching

and admonishing one another” (Col. 3:16; compare Eph. 5:19). We should sing with the spirit, and **with understanding** (1 Cor. 14:15). *God’s people certainly do not want to be singing anything contrary to the sound teaching found in God’s Word of truth.* Yet sadly there are erroneous statements found in many of our hymns.

The hymn **Come Thou Almighty King** is stately and majestic and honors the triune God; yet, we sing “Spirit of holiness on us descend.” This seems to imply that we need to have the Spirit come upon us. Isn’t He already dwelling within us in all His fulness? “And ne’er from us depart, Spirit of power.” If we are sealed with the Spirit unto the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30), why do we need to ask Him never to depart? We know for sure that the Comforter will abide with us forever (John 14:16). **All Hail the Power** is a wonderful and forceful anthem of praise to Christ who is Lord of all; yet, it implies that those saved by grace (members of His Church) are the “chosen seed of Israel’s race,” thus reflecting the unbiblical doctrine of replacement theology. A more contemporary hymn, **His Robes For Mine**, is a beautiful expression of Christ’s substitutionary death; yet, the second stanza teaches that Christ kept the law **in our stead vicariously**. Christ did keep the law perfectly; yet, our righteous standing is found in Christ risen. Romans 4:25 does **not** say, “Who was delivered for our offenses, and **who kept the law for our justification.**” Our righteousness is found on the resurrection side of the cross. *[For a fuller discussion of this, see <https://www.middletownbiblechurch.org/reformed/vicarlaw.htm>]*

Believers need to be carefully taught, and sound Biblical doctrine should be reflected in our hymn singing. Let all things be done unto edifying (1 Cor. 14:26)!

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