

Hymn Study: Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

“Nothing but the Blood of Jesus” is a timeless American hymn that continues to be sung in many churches throughout the world. It was written by minister and hymnwriter Robert Lowry in 1876, inspired by Hebrews 9:22, “In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” Its lyrics depict Jesus’s blood as the cleanser of believers’ sins and the pathway to righteousness.

Shortly after writing it, Lowry brought the hymn to a church camp meeting in New Jersey, where it reportedly “took possession of the people,” who were deeply impacted by its sweet melody and insightful lyrics. From there, it quickly spread from congregation to congregation as more and more Christians found hope in its message of faith.

Despite being a very gifted musician who composed the melodies to over 500 hymns and wrote lyrics for many others, Robert Lowry was adamant that he was a minister first, considering preaching his true calling. To him, music was simply another vehicle he used to spread the message of Christ. He would likely have been deeply surprised, then, to find out how great of a legacy his hymns have left behind. “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus” has become one of the most well-known American hymns, and has been covered by many popular musicians in recent years, including Carrie Underwood, Randy Travis, and Jamie Grace.

Aside from “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus,” his other famous works include “Shall We Gather at the River?” and “Christ Arose,” each song carrying a piece of the gospel message inside. Through both word and music, Lowry left a lasting impact on Christianity, and his songs, rooted in timeless biblical truths, continue to inspire believers to this day.

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus Lyrics

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

1. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

Chorus:

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

2. For my cleansing this I see
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
For my pardon this my plea
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

3. Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

4. This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

5. Now by this I'll overcome
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
Now by this, I'll reach my home
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

6. Glory! glory! thus I sing
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
All my praise to this I bring
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

Nothing but the Blood

Robert Lowry

Choir



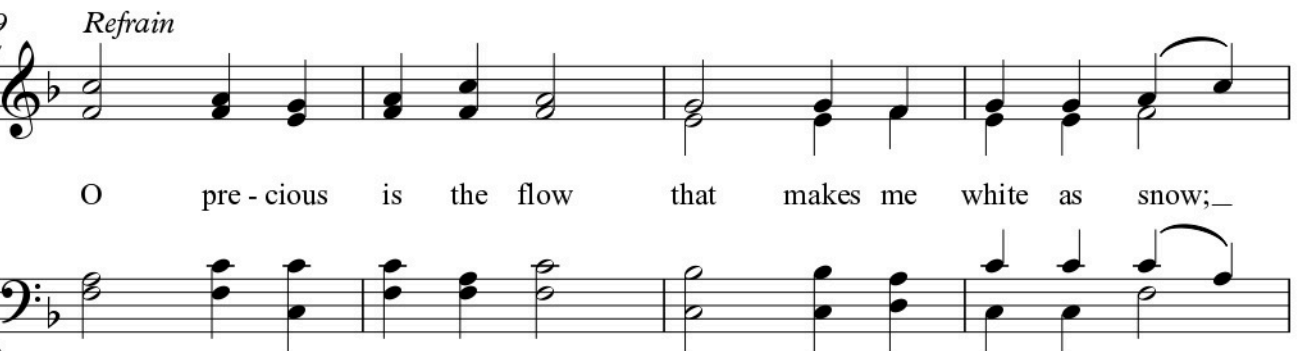
1. What can wash a - way my sin? Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.
2. For my par - don this I see: noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.
3. Noth - ing can for sin a - tone: noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.
4. This is all my hope and peace: noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.

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What can make me whole a - gain? Noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.
For my clean - sing this my plea: noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.
Naught of good that I have done: noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.
This is all my right - eous - ness: noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.

9 *Refrain*



O pre - cious is the flow that makes me white as snow;—

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no o - ther fount I know; noth - ing but the blood of Je - sus.