

Kevin Twit - Hymns

- “The point of worship is to make Jesus more beautiful and believable to us.” ~ Kevin Twit, via Bill Lane (commentator William Lane, who was a friend)
- Isaiah 44: idolatry, return to me because I *have* redeemed you
- “Worship is spiritual warfare and practice in seeing through common sense.” Rodney Clapp
- J. C. Ryle, *Songs for the Church on Earth* (hymnal)

I. Introduction

II. Worship is Formative - It Matters What We Sing

III. Hymns Help Us Grow Up

- A. Hymns teach us the rich theology we need!
- B. Are we preparing our people for their inevitable encounter with death?
- C. Don't be afraid of songs that teach people things they need to know.

IV. Hymns Focus Us Where the Focus Needs to Be

- A. Hymns are mini-meditations on the “paradoxes” of the gospel that drive us to worship.
- B. Hymns are an opportunity to sit in a mystery.
- C. Hymns remind us that we can only approach God through the shed blood of Jesus.
- D. Hymns focus us on God's promises more than upon ours.

V. Hymns Engage the Whole Person

- A. Hymns offer a more full emotional range of expression.
- B. Hymns tend to engage our imagination, intellect, and will together.
- C. Hymns broaden our range of metaphors.
- D. Reformed history is often told as a history of preachers. But many of our preaching heroes spent lots of energy attending to what people sang and published hymnbooks.
- E. How hymns do theology is different than propositions but a vital contribution nonetheless.
- F. Hymns tell a story and walk us through the gospel.

VI. Hymns Can Help us Gain a Bigger Picture of the Kingdom of God

- A. Hymns remind us that the church is bigger than the people we know, or even who are alive today.
- B. We look forward to worship with people from every race, tribe, and tongue.
- C. We don't mind some archaic language because it helps remind students that the church is bigger than their generation and even includes people who don't think and talk like them.
- D. But we must beware of worshipping tradition and hymns themselves.