

Blessed Assurance—March's Hymn of the Month 2020

By

Bill Dagle

March the 24th will mark the 200th birthday of the famous hymn writer, Fanny Jane Crosby. Born in Brewster, New York, in 1820, blinded at the age of six weeks, Fanny would live to see 95 years on earth; and now is residing in Heaven with her Savior. Of the 8,000 plus hymns she would write, I believe this hymn should be called her signature song. She expresses so well what every born again believer has in Christ.—that is the blessed assurance that only He can give.

Fanny knew what it was like to not have that assurance. She spent her first 30 years living with “one foot in the world and the other in church” she once remarked. Finally, at an evangelistic meeting at the John Street Methodist Episcopal Church in New York City, the assurance came. During the singing of the grand old hymn, *Alas and Did my Savior Bleed*, Fanny left her pew and went forward leaving the world behind. From that day forward, she devoted herself to the Lord's work resulting in all these wonderful hymns.

In that same church were two very successful people—Joseph Fairchild Knapp and his wife, Phoebe. Joseph was one of the founders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and second president of the same. Phoebe was a lover of music and a hymn writer writing over 500 hymn tunes herself. Fanny had been invited to the Knapp mansion that summer of 1873. Phoebe had composed a new tune, and she wanted Fanny to hear it. Phoebe played the song through three times until Fanny jumped to her feet and exclaimed, “Why that says, blessed assurance Jesus is mine. “ The new hymn first appeared in print during July of that year and has gone on to be one of Fanny's best known songs.

Going to Heaven is not a guessing game or at least it shouldn't be. Religion is man's attempts to end up there and will fail in the end. The only way to know for sure where you are going when you die is to follow Christ's teaching in John, chapter three. Christ died so you and I could live forever with Him. As 1 John 5:13 says, “These things have I written unto you that believe the name of the son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” Don't go to sleep tonight without this blessed assurance. All of eternity hangs in the balance.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain:

This is my story this is my song.
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song.
Praising my Savior all the day long.