

Harding University

Scholar Works at Harding

Footnotes: Curated Resources for Ministers

Harding School of Theology

4-29-2019

Footnotes: From Hymn Sings to Hillsong, Part 1

Bob Turner

Harding School of Theology

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-footnotes>

Recommended Citation

Turner, B. (2019). Footnotes: From Hymn Sings to Hillsong, Part 1. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-footnotes/23>

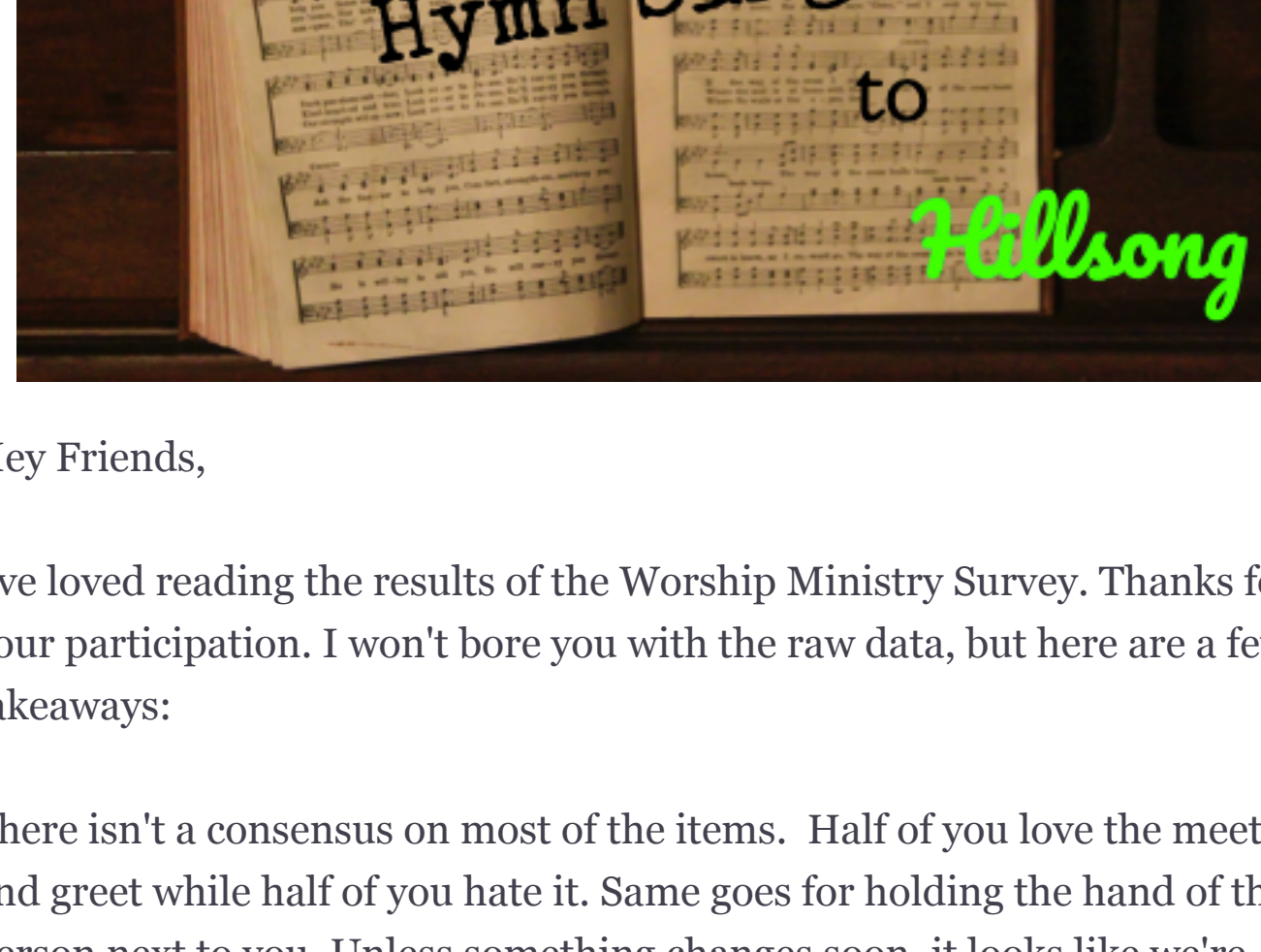
This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Harding School of Theology at Scholar Works at Harding. It has been accepted for inclusion in Footnotes: Curated Resources for Ministers by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at Harding. For more information, please contact scholarworks@harding.edu.



HARDING
UNIVERSITY

Footnotes¹

¹Curated Resources for Ministers



Hey Friends,

I've loved reading the results of the Worship Ministry Survey. Thanks for your participation. I won't bore you with the raw data, but here are a few takeaways:

There isn't a consensus on most of the items. Half of you love the meet and greet while half of you hate it. Same goes for holding the hand of the person next to you. Unless something changes soon, it looks like we're stuck with a future of bearing with one another and practicing mutual submission.

There are a few things on which we can agree. We tend to love *Doxology*, *O Sacred Head*, and *In Christ Alone*. I don't want to spend too much time on songs we hate, but I will say that when the skies above us are gray, we still don't have a song that makes us feel less blue.

Your suggestions for worship leaders included: leading with hands, pitching songs better, making more comments, making less comments, singing louder, leading new songs, stop leading unfamiliar songs, and start playing a guitar. So, all over the place.

This issue of Footnotes will continue our look at our worship. The best part is that you'll hear from two of my favorite worship leaders, Steve Maxwell and Leon Sanderson. You'll find:

- *Footnotes Roundtable* with **Leon Sanderson**
- Writers share their favorite reads from the past 30 years
- A curious story of academic forgery and fraud
- *Footnotes Audio* with **Steve Maxwell**
- *A Few More Footnotes*.



Footnotes Roundtable w/ Leon Sanderson

Leon Sanderson is the Associate Minister at the Church of Christ at White Station (where I have been since 2005). His responsibilities include leading worship in the Auditorium service. He will retire this summer after 40 years. I'm a huge fan of him and the many things he has accomplished.

BT: I would guess that early in your career you were called a song leader, while now you might be called a worship leader. Are those synonyms for you, or would you say there is a meaningful distinction there?

LS: When I began leading songs as a young teenager and soon teaching in our singing schools, I thought being a junior song leader and working with the young boys was a great opportunity. As I grew and became more involved, I began to call the role worship leader. The two terms were used synonymously. However, I remember thinking of worship leader as more accurately describing my job. I was part of the whole service experience as well as seeking to lead the congregation to a closer relationship with God.

BT: Your father (L.O. Sanderson) was a noted songwriter. You also have written songs. What role do you think this has played in your ministry? Do you think worship ministers should compose/arrange music? Would you advise that churches sing local music that only their members might know?

LS: My Dad wrote several hundred songs and edited three songbooks. I have written several songs focusing on the message and the content of the songs. I have used Biblical texts in most and words of my Dad and lyricists special to him like T. O. Chisholm. Worship ministers may be accomplished in this area of expertise, yet should keep in mind the congregation. I like to lead the classics and favorites as well as introduce new songs gradually for all to join in. We need to keep focus on participation rather than performance.

BT: What are some songs that you think should be sung often?

LS: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness; It is Well With My Soul; Be With Me, Lord; In Christ Alone; How Deep the Father's Love*

BT: What are some songs that you think we should consider forgetting?

LS: I can forget *Just a Little Talk With Jesus*. It is short on theology. There is more to relationship with Jesus than talk. I can forget *The Church in the Wildwood*. It recalls a scene of memory yet gives no attention to relationship of members and the body of Christ. I can forget *He Bore It All* because of difficult, individual parts. *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* teaches more effectively and focuses on what Jesus truly did. I can forget songs that emphasize special parts and syncopated rhythms as well as Christian music that is written primarily for solo.

BT: Worship ministry in Churches of Christ has changed a lot over the past few decades. What are some habits/traditions/strengths that you think we need to keep? How would you recommend churches/worship leaders do this?

LS: It would be good to continue strong worship leadership with the goal of encouraging everyone to sing. Four-part harmony has been our practice though not mandated in scripture. This harmonic arrangement has been unique to us and a few other religious groups and is always appreciated by those who visit. In order to maintain and improve, churches and worship leaders should make time for practice and arrange for well-prepared leaders. Whoever has the leader role should encourage each person present to give his or her best. Remember, God is the audience!

BT: Be honest, should it be: "Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above" OR "Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove?"

LS: Perhaps these two quotes take us back to an earlier comment about the difference between performance and participation. Both phrases appear in the song lyrics of *Come/O Thou Fount of Every Blessing* by Robert Robinson in 1758. Since I do not know the significance of the thoughts of the writer, I can only comment subjectively. Perhaps "Teach me some melodious sonnet" suggests I may be able to display a measure of what I know. On the other hand, "Teach me ever to adore Thee" focuses clearly on the One adored.

BT: Ok, what about this one: God in three persons....should we go "Blessed Trinity" or "Blessed Eternally?"

LS: I believe the phrase denoting the Trinity is what Reginald Heber intended. The song was written in 1826 for Trinity Sunday. The tune, composed by John Dykes and identified as "Nicaea," was written in 1861 as a tribute to the First Council of Nicaea. Either way, God is acknowledged yet the origin of the song points to the use of the Trinitarian phrase.

BT: What should worship leaders do that you perceive they might not be doing?

LS: Realize they have a significant role in the service. Select hymns that will compliment sermon content and scripture readings, considering the whole service. At the beginning of the service, introduce its theme and how all aspects fit together. Be prepared physically in order to be at one's best for the worship time. Above all, be prepared spiritually with a life that parallels the life of a leader, even the life of Christ.



30 for 30

I discovered the journal *Image* after the recent announcement that [James K.A. Smith would become its editor](#). I'm pretty late to this party. This issue they celebrated their 30th year by having three of their authors select their 10 favorite books from the past 30 years.

A few of interest:

- Debbie Blue, *From Stone to Living Word: Letting the Bible Live Again* (2008),
- John M. Perkins, *Beyond Charity: The Call to Christian Community Development* (1998),
- Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead* (2004),
- David Foster Wallace, *Infinite Jest* (1996).

Just like every book recommendation list I've seen, this one gave me the same nudge of encouragement, "Read poetry. Read poetry."



Teeth Will Be Provided

Great story here.

P.R. Coleman-Norton, renowned Professor of Classics at Princeton, once wrote an academic article that detailed an excursion he took while serving in World War II. Coleman-Norton visited a mosque in Northeast Casablanca where the imam let him use the library/museum. While viewing an Arabic book, he finds a single-sheet of Greek text that he identified as *Opus Imperfectum in Matthaem* (basically, a commentary on the Gospel of Matthew from a few centuries after the time of Jesus). This was a real find, so the next day he returns and bribes the imam with cigarettes for the opportunity to view the piece of parchment again.

P.R. Coleman-Norton insists that what he found was Greek of Jesus's warning in Matthew 24:51 that there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. No big deal, right? Well. The next verse of this fragmentary text had a follow-up question from the disciples:

"Rabbi (which is to say, being interpreted, Master), how can these things be, if they be toothless? And Jesus answered and said: 'O thou of little faith, trouble not thyself; if haply they will be lacking any, teeth will be provided.'"

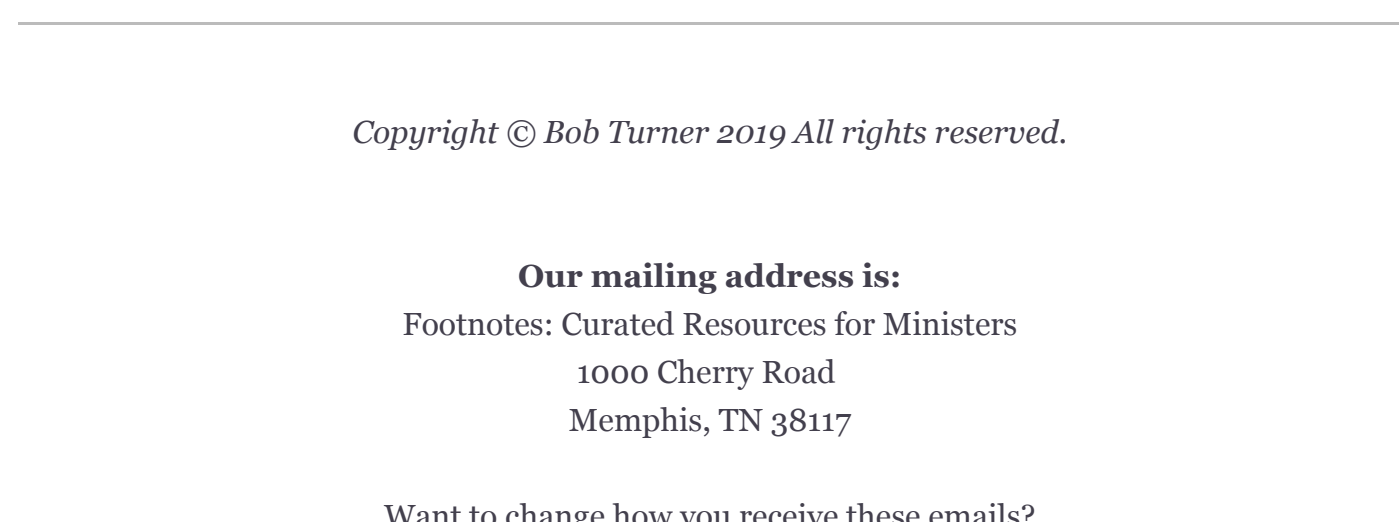
What!?!?

Readers of *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 12, no. 4 (October 1950) were treated to this story by one of the world's foremost experts. Certainly it was true. Well, it depends who you trust. A few decades later, another Princeton legend, Bruce M. Metzger, stood in front of the most distinguished gathering of biblical scholars (SBL Meeting, 1971) and claimed that while Coleman-Norton's story was humorous, it was hardly factual. In fact, Metzger had Coleman-Norton for class before World War II, and Coleman-Norton would often tell the story of gnashing of teeth and missing teeth as a joke. If you want to hear great scholars knock this one around, [check out Mark Goodacre's podcast](#). Those of you connected to Harding School of Theology will have no doubt this fantastic story came from Allen Black, who shares my love of quirky stories of scholarship and academic hoaxes.

The text from Casablanca is probably a forgery if it did actually exist. But it probably did not exist, since it was more likely a piece of a famed professors imagination. Unfortunately, Jesus probably didn't say that. I'd still like to think that if he had been asked about those without teeth, this is exactly how he would have responded.



Footnotes Audio w/ Steve Maxwell



Steve Maxwell (North Atlanta Church of Christ) joined me to chat about worship ministry. Click on the image to listen.



A Few More Footnotes

1. Pete Enns [talks through James Fowler's Stages of Faith](#). The early stages differently make sense relative to human development. I have reservations about whether or not people hit stages 5 and 6 later in life, or if Fowler presented those as aspirations.
2. [Mark Hamilton's preview of Jesus, King of Strangers](#) (Eerdmans, 2019), which makes the case for Christian sensitivity towards immigrants and refugees.
3. Michael Bird on the [Provenance of Philippians](#).
4. "Grief and joy can hold hands," [Beverly Ross on Mother's Day](#).
5. "Like with slavery, the church recognizes that there is a group that has little voice, little agency, and little power." Josh Graves on [the church and abortion](#).
6. "Now, before we continue our worship, let me read a passage from Colossians 3." Excellent piece by Daniel Block on [the mistake of equating worship and music](#).
7. I was so sad to hear of the death of Rachel Held Evans. There were many fitting obituaries published. I doubt she would have believed 10 years ago that she would one day be remembered in the [New York Times](#). Many will remember her for her place in social media. My memory will be for the significant place that *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* played in questioning our use of the word "biblical."
8. You might love a few of these [hymnals from our special collections](#).



[Subscribe to Footnotes](#)

[Back Issues of Footnotes](#)

FOOTNOTES helps church leaders discover the resources that will improve and sustain their ministries. It will regularly feature interviews, book recommendations, site reviews, and editorials. It is a project of Bob Turner. You can direct any questions or feedback to jtturner@harding.edu. Complaints can be sent to his Juno account.

UPCOMING
MAY 27

Podcasts

Copyright © Bob Turner 2019 All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
Footnotes: Curated Resources for Ministers
1000 Cherry Road
Memphis, TN 38117

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Bob Turner - 1000 Cherry - Memphis, TN 38117 - USA

