

Rich Mullins Intro to "Winter Hymn" Transcript

". . . A lot of times when I write songs, like, I never know when I start a song what's going to happen before it gets all over.

And, ah, so I just add a verse or two here and there. As I go along I'll be thinking of a song and then I think, Oh, that sounds good, so I'll throw it in. A lot of people get really messed up because my songs--some people think they're not very ah, cohesive, you know. They don't hold together very well. . . they don't make sense is one big thing that flips a lot of people out.

But I think it's amusing that when I look at everything that I see it doesn't all make sense, but it's all there. When you put everything that's there together, it makes pretty good sense (audience laughter). You have trees, you know? (audience laughter)

Pretty good. . .

And, in case, you know, before all the music critics and theology critics and fine art literature critics begin to attack me on account of that, I get my license from people like, ah, I can't think of his name right now (audience laughter) but he's one of my favorite poets.

I cannot do this set without doing a song that, it's an old song. I was gonna write all new stuff for it but I ran out of time so, but I'm glad that I did because I would rather do this song than just about any other one that I think I do.

It's a song I wrote my second year here, yeah, my second year here at the Seminary. And at that time there was this great controversy between the Charismatics and the Rationalists. And they were going back and forth, "No, you can't speak in tongues," "Yes, you can speak in tongues." "No, the Lord isn't here" and "Yes, the Lord is here."

Some people believed the Lord was telling them when to blow their nose, and some people thought the Holy Spirit was living in Argentina on retirement. And here I was, one lonely little Christian lost amidst this big dispute and I began to think, where is everything at? If I'm in any kind of situation, can I really pray to you, God and know that you're going to answer my prayer?

And not having graduated from here, I still don't know. (applause, laughter)

But I do believe this:

I've come to believe that we can destroy everything that Christianity has to offer by sitting around and moping about what it is. And if we can rejoice in the Lord and take the truth that we have: it's concrete the fact that Jesus is Lord, that he died and was buried and is resurrected and he is coming again.

If we can stand on that, if we can stand on the fact that you have to accept him, you have to be baptized into him, you have to live the Christian life, live in faith, if we can take those things we know for sure and stand on them and forget about the stuff that confuses us, not forget about it but just don't let it keep us from rejoicing in what we have, you know what I mean? It would be very easy for me to drop out of

Christianity because there are so many things that the more I began to study it, the more I realized that nobody really knew. And I know that somebody does.

It was out of this frustrating kind of experience and a very wintry evening at the parking garage that I wrote this song.

So, here it is. . .

Begins playing, then interrupts himself (Audience laughter)

Oh, it's very funny--this girl out at the Jesus House. (Audience laughter)

This girl at the Jesus House came up to me after I played this song, you know, and she said, "Oh, Rich!

That is really life." You know? And I didn't know what she was talking about. (Audience laughter) So please don't read anything into this. There are all kinds of things you can do with it, but please don't think I'm trying to say or not say anything.

It's just kind of like, therapeutic and some people have enjoyed it, so I'm gonna drop it on you.

(Plays A Winter Hymn)

Rich Mullins, In Worship of the Coming King Concert

January 19, 1977

Cincinnati Bible College

Transcript by Pamela Richards 2011