



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

8/11/09

Program 98 "I'm Free" © 1969 Pete Townshend



The Song ^{1,2}

- By Who guitarist Pete Townshend; part of rock opera, *Tommy*
 - Released on the concept album *Tommy* in '69
- Describes Tommy's reaction after his mother smashed mirror in which he was trapped
 - Wants his disciples to follow him; declares he is their Messiah
 - On album, "Pinball Wizard" appears at end of song during "How can we follow?" lyrics
- Covered by Christian band Geoff Moore and the Distance in '97 on album *Threads*

The Group – The Who ³

- English rock band formed in '64 – have sold 100+ million records
 - Pete Townshend, Roger Daltrey, John Entwistle, Keith Moon
 - Known for energetic live performances, including trashing their instruments
- Inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in '90, their first year of eligibility
 - Described as "Prime contenders,... for the title of World's Greatest Rock Band"
- Charted 25 singles in the UK Top 20 and/or US Top 40, and 17 Top Ten albums
- Hits include: "My Generation", "I Can't Explain", "I Can See for Miles", "Happy Jack", "Pictures of Lily", "Magic Bus", "The Kids Are Alright", "Baba O'Riley", "Behind Blue Eyes", "Won't Get Fooled Again", "Bargain", "Going Mobile", "Squeeze Box", "You Better You Bet", "Join Together", and "Pinball Wizard"
- Fame grew with performances at the Monterey Pop and Woodstock music festivals
- Moon died in '78 (drug overdose); Entwistle died in '02 (heart attack / cocaine use)
 - Zak Starkey (Ringo's son) has often drummed for The Who since the mid-'90s
- Eleven fans crushed to death at '79 concert in Cincinnati, Ohio, Riverfront Coliseum
- London concert in May '76 listed as "Loudest Concert Ever" by Guinness Book
 - Volume level measured 126 decibels 32 metres from the stage
- Many awards, including #29 on Rolling Stone's list of 100 All-Time Greatest Artists

I'm free-I'm free,
I'm free-I'm free,
And freedom tastes of reality,

- Freedom is very important to mankind
- There are numerous songs with this same title – "I'm Free"

*"Even the most "free" person, in human terms, may be enslaved by sin. Even the most enslaved person may be free from sin through faith in and obedience to Christ."*⁴

¹ <http://www.songfacts.com/detail.php?id=4270>

² [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I%27m_Free_\(The_Who_song\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I%27m_Free_(The_Who_song))

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Who

⁴ <http://minuteswithmessiah.tripod.com/question/freedom.html>

I'M FREE - I'm free,
And freedom tastes of reality,
I'm free-I'm free,
AN' I'm waiting for you to follow me.

“...Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?’ Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.’” – John 8:31b-36

If I told you what it takes
To reach the highest high,
You’d laugh and say nothing’s that simple
But you’ve been told many times before

A Christian’s spiritual position is “the highest high”!
“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus”
– Ephesians 2:6

Messiah’s pointed to the door
And no one had the guts to leave the temple!



The Gospel of Jesus Christ is quite simple and straightforward, yet people often won’t accept it

- Common wisdom says, “If it seems too good to be true, it probably isn’t”...yet...

“Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified” – 1 Cor. 20b-23a

- “Messiah” and “temple” are clearly scriptural terms
- What do you think the writer means in this lyric?

I'M FREE - I'm free,
And freedom tastes of reality
I'M FREE - I'm free,
And I'm waiting for you to follow me.

Freedom, not bondage, is the Christian’s reality...
“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery” – Galatians 5:1

How can we follow?
How can we follow?

- Recognize your sinful condition and need for Jesus (Rom. 3:23)
- Repent, confess and ask forgiveness for your sin (2 Cor. 7:10a; 1 Jn 1:9)
- Determine to follow Him daily (Luke 9:23)

“Dear God, be merciful to me a sinner, for Your word tells me that all have sinned and come short of Your glory. I turn from sin to Your righteousness, for unless I repent I know I shall perish. Because I have confessed my sin, I believe that You are faithful and just to forgive me, and to make me a new creation! Thank You because I can now call You Father, for You have made me Your child.”

* * * * *

...And what freedom is ours through Christ Jesus?

This similarly-titled song from the Christian group, The Newsboys, says it all...

“I Am Free” © The Newsboys

Through You the blind will see
Through You the mute will sing
Through You the dead will rise
Through You our hearts will praise
Through You the darkness flees
Through You my heart screams I am free!
I am free

Chorus:

I am free to run
(I am free to run)
I am free to dance
(I am free to dance)
I am free to live for You
(I am free to live for You)
I am free
(I am free)
Yes, I am free
(I am free)

Through You the kingdom's come
Through You the battle's won
Through You I'm not afraid
Through You the price is paid
Through You there's victory
Because of You my soul sings I am free!
I am free

(Chorus)

Who the Son sets free is free indeed.
Who the Son sets free is free indeed.

(Chorus)