



"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

7/29/09

Program 95 "Muddy Water" © Monty Criswell, Rick Huckaby

The Song ¹



- Lead single from Trace Adkins' album entitled *X*; released in '08

"'Muddy Water' is actually the first gospel song I've recorded in 10 years. It's funny because it reminds me of when I started out — singing in a gospel quartet when I was 17, almost 30 years ago." He added: "I enjoyed that time in my life, and that's where I come from — small town life, where everything was centered around church and school. 'Muddy Water' is a prodigal son kind of thing for me." — Trace Adkins

- Adkins chose his *Celebrity Apprentice* co-star, actor Stephen Baldwin, to feature in the song's music video (played a man being baptized in muddy water)
 - Baldwin had converted to evangelical Christianity shortly after the 9/11 attacks

"When I recorded this song, I thought about Stephen. I thought if this was ever a single, which I didn't think it would be, by the way ... we're gonna do a video for this because Stephen would be perfect because this song mirrors his life, too, and the road that his life has taken -- where you went astray and came back. And the work that he does now and his ministry and all that stuff, I knew that he would like this song. So I sent it to him, and it seemed like providence when I said, 'This is the only week I have available to do this video,' and he looked at his calendar and said, 'That's the only week that I could do it.' Yeah, it was meant to be." — Trace Adkins

The Artist – Tracy Darrell "Trace" Adkins (1962-) ²

- American country music artist from Sarepta, Louisiana
- Discovered by Capitol Records exec while Adkins played Nashville honky-tonk bars
- Charted 20+ singles on *Billboard* country music charts, including three #1 hits:
 - "(This Ain't) No Thinkin' Thing", "Ladies Love Country Boys", "You're Gonna Miss This"
- 7 of 8 studio albums have achieved gold or platinum certification in the U.S.
- Autobiography: *A Personal Stand: Observations and Opinions from a Free-Thinking Roughneck*
- In high school, joined a gospel music group called the New Commitments
- A rough life:
 - Lost pinky finger on left hand in accident; asked doctors to reattach the finger at an angle so that he could continue to play guitar
 - Shot in the heart and lungs by his second wife
 - Injuries from bar room incidents and a tractor accident
 - Rehabilitation treatment for alcoholism
- Inducted into Grand Ole Opry in 2003
- Awards include:
 - 1996 Academy of Country Music's (ACM) Top New Male Vocalist
 - 2008 Country Music Television's (CMT) Male Video of the Year "I Got My Game On"
 - 2009 ACM Single of the Year "You're Gonna Miss This"
- Acting and / or appearances: *Hollywood Squares*, *The Celebrity Apprentice*, *Yes, Dear*, *The Young and the Restless*, and in the movie *An American Carol*

¹ <http://www.songfacts.com/detail.php?id=12784>

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trace_Adkins

Eighteen wheeler dropped me off
 at that city limits sign
 Sunday morning sunlight hurt my eyes
 It's a long way from where I been
 back to my home town
 But there's a man in me I need to drown

- Compare to return of prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32)
- *"...if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live" – Romans 8:13b*
- *"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry" – Col. 3:5*

Baptize me in that muddy water
 Wash me clean in amazing grace
 I ain't been living like I 'aughta
 Baptize me in that muddy water

- To whom are these words directed?
- Have you been baptized? Where, when, how?

Made my way to the church
 at the end of the dirt road
 Dragging what was left of my soul
 I could see the saints
 out back on the river bank
 And I could hear forgiveness
 calling out my name

- Must you be in a church to seek forgiveness? Why?
- *"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..." – Acts 2:38a*
- Must you be baptized to go to heaven? Why or why not?
- When should you be baptized?

Baptize me in that muddy water
 Wash me clean in amazing grace
 I ain't been living like I 'aughta, no
 So baptize me in that muddy water

Baptize me in that muddy water
 Wash me clean in amazing grace
 I ain't been living like I 'aughta, no
 Baptize me in that muddy water

Baptize me in that muddy water
 Yeah, wash me clean
 in that muddy water, water
 In that muddy water
 Baptize me

- In the Old Testament, ceremonial cleanliness and sacrifices of animals "without blemish" are emphasized with respect to seeking forgiveness (see Lev. 5:18)
 - So, does baptism in "muddy" water matter? Should it?
- Churches practice several ways of baptizing today
 - E.g., cold water, warm water, sprinkling, dunking, pouring, one time, three times, running water, still water, no water (i.e., spiritual baptism), etc.
 - Does it matter how? Why or why not?
- What cleanses us? The water?
- *"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" --1 John 1:7*

Final Thoughts:

Baptism is a public act attesting to an inward decision – a change of heart and life. Through baptism, we tell the world that we are identifying with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that *"No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God."* (1 John 3:9). Here it refers to the patterns and priorities of our lives – they must change, for we have passed from death to life. So, are we *incapable* of sinning? No. John wrote, *"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world"* – 1 John 2:1-2. That's great to know!

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