



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.5, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

02/27/08

Program 23 – “**Nowhere Man**” © 1965 John Lennon and Paul McCartney

One of the purposes in this series is to take secular music that expresses human needs, and then look at Scripture to see how God can help us. 2 Timothy 3:16a tells us that *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...” (NIV)*. Lyrics to the Beatles’ hit “Nowhere Man” provide an excellent reference point for examining the need each of us has for finding the Lord’s direction and purpose in our lives. First, a few background notes about this song¹...

- Recorded on the *Rubber Soul* album, which included “Drive My Car”, “Norwegian Wood”, “You Won’t See Me”, “Michelle”, “What Goes On”, “In My Life”, and “Girl”
- Reached #3 on Bill Board’s Top 100 chart in 1965
- Penned almost entirely by John Lennon
- Among the very first Beatles songs to be entirely unrelated to romance or love
- Youthful fans interpreted "just sees what he wants to see" and "don't know what [he's] missing", as directed against their parents' generation and conformism
- Lennon, claimed he himself was the subject of the song
 - He wrote it after racking his brain in desperation for five hours, trying to come up with another song for *Rubber Soul*. "I'd actually stopped trying to think of something," he said. "Then I thought of myself as Nowhere Man — sitting in his nowhere land." Lennon explained in an interview -- "I'd spent five hours that morning trying to write a song that was meaningful and good, and I finally gave up and lay down. Then 'Nowhere Man' came, words and music, the whole [expletive] thing as I lay down."
- McCartney said of the song: "That was John after a night out, with dawn coming up. I think at that point, he was a bit...wondering where he was going and to be truthful so was I. I was starting to worry about him."
- Also recorded by Jeff Lynne (ELO), Bee Gees, and the Carpenters

He’s a real Nowhere Man,
Sitting in his Nowhere Land,
Making all his nowhere plans for nobody.

We’re all “Nowhere Men & Women” absent the Lord’s direction

- *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”* – James 1:5-6
- *“Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.”* – Psalm 127:1

Doesn't have a point of view,
Knows not where he's going to,
Isn't he a bit like you and me?

“Give us clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for- because unless we stand for something we shall fall for anything”² -- Peter Marshall, US Senate Chaplain 1947

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowhere_Man_%28song%29

² <http://thinkexist.com/quotation/>

Nowhere Man, please listen --
You don't know what you're missing,
Nowhere Man, the world is at your command.

- Is this true? Is the world really "at [our] command"?
 - How can any one of us, control, e.g., the stock market, public opinion, world events, etc.
 - Fundamentally, we can control our attitude, decisions and actions, but little else
 - Like many celebrities, John Lennon became a virtual prisoner in his apartment and hotel rooms
 - Following Christ involves personal surrender, not personal command of our world
 - Jesus was surrendered to the Father. He said -- *"...I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."* -- John 5:30b

He's as blind as he can be,
Just sees what he wants to see,
Nowhere Man can you see me at all?

- Satan blinds people to spiritual truth
 - *"...if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ..."* – 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
 - *"...whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away"* – 2 Corinthians 3:16

Nowhere Man, don't worry,
Take your time, don't hurry,
Leave it all till somebody else
lends you a hand.

Nowhere man please listen,
You don't know what your missing
Nowhere Man, the world is at your command

Doesn't have a point of view,
Knows not where he's going to,
Isn't he a bit like you and me?

*"Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink. I don't know what will go first, rock 'n' roll or Christianity. We're more popular than Jesus now. Jesus was all right, but his disciples were thick and ordinary"*³
– John Lennon, 4 March 1966

He's a real Nowhere Man,
Sitting in his Nowhere Land,
Making all his nowhere plans for nobody.
Making all his nowhere plans for nobody.
Making all his nowhere plans for nobody.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" – Jesus Christ, Matthew 24:35

"Can He love me?" the former Beatle [John Lennon] asked [in 1972 letter to] Oral Roberts. "I want out of hell."
-- Excerpt from *The Gospel According to the Beatles* by Steve Turner⁴

Final Thoughts:

It's probably happened to you at some point... you get a shocking phone call that some friend, relative, acquaintance or co-worker has taken their own life. And you had no clue concerning whatever private pain and anguish drove such a decision. We are surrounded by "Nowhere" people for whom Christ died, whose lives lack direction, purpose and meaning. Their demographics are as wide as society. They are poor, rich, young, old, white, black, male and female... Unless they see Jesus as the answer, and turn to Him in childlike faith and trust, their struggles simply grind on with no end in sight.

Concerning the death of Hollywood actor Heath Ledger, blogger Joel Spencer, in an article entitled "Empty, Aimless, Alone" noted:

*"...this entire earth is filled with millions who don't know who this Jesus is. How can I remain silent and hoard this gift that I've been given? This world is hurting, this world is dying, they are taking their own lives out of desperation and pain. But I submit to you that, worst of all, this world is living without hope, value and purpose. I know the only cure, I know the only antidote and His name is Jesus, the Light of the world."*⁵

Amen!

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

⁴ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2007/januaryweb-only/001-22.0.html?start=1>

⁵ <http://desh412.blogspot.com/2008/01/empty-aimless-alone.html>