



"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

01/29/08

Program 21 – "Reflections Of My Life" – © 1969 Marmalade

Marmalade was a successful '60s Scottish pop/rock group that still performs today on the nostalgia circuit with one original member. The group originally featured two bass players – highly unusual. Although they charted 11 hits in the United Kingdom, their only hit in the U.S. market, reaching #10 (#3 in Britain), was the melancholy "Reflections Of My Life" in 1970. Their cover of the Beatles' "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da" topped the charts in Britain in January 1969, making them the only Scottish group to ever achieve a number one hit on the UK charts. At one point, Marmalade was offered – and rejected – the opportunity to record "Everlasting Love", which Robert Knight took to #13 in the U.S., and which fellow British group The Love Affair rode to #1 on the British charts.¹

"Reflections Of My Life", written by the group, features a sobering message, a hauntingly memorable tune with rich harmonies, and a novel backwards guitar interlude. At that time, several artists and groups utilized this controversial recording technique, known as "backmasking" – in which a sound or message is recorded backwards onto a track that is meant to be played forwards. This practice soon came under fire from some in the Christian community, who alleged that it was used by rock musicians to convey subliminal Satanic messages to listeners.²

The changing of sunlight to moonlight
Reflections of my life, oh, how they fill my eyes

The greetings of people in trouble
Reflections of my life, oh, how they fill my mind

All my sorrows, sad tomorrows
Take me back to my own home
All my crying (all my crying), feel I'm dying, dying
Take me back to my own home (oh I'm going home)

I'm changing, arranging, I'm changing
I'm changing everything, ah, everything around me

The world is a bad place, a bad place
A terrible place to live, oh, but I don't wanna die

- A life that moves from light to darkness
- What did Jesus say to His followers?
"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" – John 16:33, NIV
- Homesick! ...as we are to be with the Lord
- Pure melancholy – deep depression; what might a psychologist say about these lyrics?
- Contrast with lyrics of "Because He Lives"³ –
....I can face tomorrow
....all fear is gone
....because I know He holds the future
....life is worth the living just because He lives
- When we go it alone trying to find peace and satisfaction, we will fail; only Jesus can satisfy
- Surrounded by strife, as if out on the road, finding the world "a terrible place to live"
 - o Viet Nam, nuclear threat, racial strife, etc.

¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marmalade_\(band\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marmalade_(band))

² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backmasking>

³ © 1971 William J. Gaither

Suicides in the United States⁴...

- Average of 1 person every 16.1 minutes
- 89+ per day
- 3rd leading cause of death for young people (ages 15-24 years)

How can one find the personal peace and lasting hope for which the lyrics to "Reflections Of My Life" plead?

Jesus said...

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." – Matthew 11:29-30, NIV

Final Thoughts:

Several years ago, my father, evangelist Ed Wells, wrote this song –

Christ is the answer to your problems today
He will take your burdens and your sins away
Look up – see Him smilin', He will never let you down.
Look up after while and not a worry can be found.
He'll hear your cry; He'll hear your plea;
He'll see bowed head and bended knee.
Christ is the answer to your problems today –
He'll take your grief and heartache all away.⁵

Have you experienced the type of sadness expressed in "Reflections Of My Life"? Call it discouragement, depression, despondency, mid-life crisis, abandonment, disappointment, or anything else, the answer to our problems remains the same – faith and trust in Jesus Christ. You do not have to go through life alone! Psalm 23 tells us...

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

*3 He restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

*4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

⁴ <http://www.suicidology.org/associations/1045/files/2005datapgs.pdf>

⁵ "Christ Is The Answer" © 1956 Edmund E. Wells, in *Wells of Salvation Songs*