



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

We live in terribly tumultuous times. Thirty years ago, there were only a few countries that had the capacity to be really bad guys. Today, we stand in line and put our shoes and stuff in plastic tubs to try to flush the bad guys out of the coach cabin. If the mere facts weren't chilling enough, our remaining candidates for president run their race by painting their version of today's horrible circumstances - war, famine, economic collapse, pestilence and disease are their daily specials - and why any/all will be much worse if anyone but them achieves victory in November. Is there any relief, anywhere?

We need some hope here. Both parties had/have candidates who have tried to package that - Republican Ron Paul's motto was "Hope for America," while Barack Obama's bestseller is, "The Audacity of Hope" - but it is absent from the aftertaste of the bitter campaigns. Human heart health is dependent on hope; without it, only desperation can thrive...

When speeches and debates fail to deliver the goods, it's great to find another pipeline through which hope can flow. If the facts in your head aren't giving you comfort in your quiet, perhaps its time to look about 18 inches south of your brain, and listen to your heart.

Music is the language of the heart.



Always has been, always will be. It's why we need to be worried about the lyrics in the songs that capture each upcoming generation: the way to a teenager's heart is still through their headphones. Would the urban streets be as deadly if the lyrics of urban rap were not so?

If you'd like to change your physical health, you've got to consider and control what you're taking into your belly. If you'd like to change your emotional health, you've got to consider and control what you're taking into your soul. What are the tunes that have become the soundtrack of your personal quiet space?

If you haven't slowed down to ponder the recent movie about William Wilberforce, **Amazing Grace**, you need to do so. Wilberforce was the champion who gave his life and health to the abolition of the slave trade in England; the movie's title captures the fact that John Newton - a spiritual mentor to

Wilberforce - gave Wilberforce his emotional fight song with the song after which the movie is titled.

Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend - an Irishman and an Englishman - have partnered to give our generation a similarly enlarging theme set to music. Began as a collaborative project in 2000, once it was finished and recorded (by multiple artists; though perhaps best by Getty's wife, Kristen), it has become a soulful sanctuary for 21st Century pilgrims who are journeying through these difficult days. The opening phrase is this great song's title:

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song. This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace; when fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe. This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save. 'Til on the cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied. For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain. Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again. And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me. For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me. From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever

pluck me from His hand. 'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I stand.

Give yourself a gift: turn off **Fox News** for an hour. Put down the **Wall Street Journal**. Close your e-mail box. Go to iTunes and download every song from the Getty's album, ***In Christ Alone***. Put in your earbuds and close your eyes... and let your heart be massaged by the messages that are new and fresh, and as timeless as the eternal Word of God. *If you can listen to all ten songs with dry eyes, I'm worried about you...*

Bob Shank

Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master's Program (TMP).

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