

Competitions in association with the Charles Wesley Society Annual Meeting
Theme: Perfectly Restored in Jesus: Charles Wesley on Holiness and Sanctification
Asbury University and Asbury Theological Seminary,
Wilmore, Kentucky, September 25-27, 2014

The Charles Wesley Society wishes to announce two competitions to be held in conjunction with its upcoming meeting in Wilmore, Kentucky on September 25-27, 2014.

1) Student Essay Contest

The Society is looking for 2,500 word essays from students on this topic: What does Charles Wesley have to say to the church today regarding holiness and sanctification? Two winners will be selected: one from among undergraduates (defined as enrolled as an undergraduate sometime during the 13-14 school year) and one from among seminary students. Submissions must be submitted by the end of June 30, 2014 by email attachment to the society's president, Lester Ruth (lruth3853@gmail.com). Entries will be judged by a panel of society members upon the basis of originality, persuasion, and familiarity with Charles Wesley's works.

The winners will be announced on September 1, 2014. Winners will receive a year's membership in the Society, an opportunity to deliver the essay at the meeting, and inclusion on the Society's website (www.charleswesleysociety.org).

2) Song Lyric Contest

The Society is looking for original song lyrics (or poems) inspired by the accompanying set of Charles Wesley hymns on holiness and sanctification. (See the four examples below or at www.charleswesleysociety.org.) These hymns were chosen for their different emphases in the theology Wesley presents on holiness as well as interesting poetic elements. Contestants may choose from any or all of the pieces in drawing inspiration. The goal is to draw inspiration from Wesley without having to duplicate his specific hymn form. Thus entries can represent any form of song or poem. With each submission, a contestant should include a description of no more than 250 words explaining the contestant's intent, including noting which piece(s) influenced the new lyrics and how. No music need be composed; the entries will be judged with respect to lyrics alone.

Separate winners will be announced for an undergraduate student division (defined as enrolled as an undergraduate sometime during the 13-14 school year) and an at-large division.

Submissions must be made by the end of June 30, 2014 by email attachment to the society's president, Lester Ruth (lruth3853@gmail.com). Entries will be judged by a panel of society members on the basis of creative appropriation of Wesley's works and poetic beauty. The winners will be announced

on September 1, 2014. Winners will receive a year's membership in the Society, an opportunity to present the new composition at the meeting, and inclusion on the Society's website (www.charleswesleysociety.org).

Note on the Charles Wesley Society

The Charles Wesley Society is a twenty year old organization dedicated to the study, promotion, interpretation, and dissemination of the works of Charles Wesley. Through a variety of means, the Society has facilitated ongoing access, assessment, and use of Wesley and his contributions to the church. More information can be found at www.charleswesleysociety.org including information on joining and assisting in its work.

Wesley Holiness Hymn Examples for Use in Song Lyrics (Poems) Contest

Example #1 is from *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1740)

1. My God! I know, I feel thee mine,
And will not quit my claim,
Till all I have be lost in thine,
And all renewed I am.
2. I hold thee with a trembling hand,
I will not let thee go,
Till steadfastly by faith I stand,
And all thy goodness know.
3. When shall I see the welcome hour
That plants my God in me!
Spirit of health, and life, and power,
And perfect liberty!
4. Jesus, thy all-victorious love
Shed in my heart abroad;
Then shall my feet no longer move,
Rooted and fixed in God.
5. Love only can the conquest win,
The strength of sin subdue,
(Mine own unconquerable sin)
And form my soul anew.
6. Love can bow down the stubborn neck,
The stone to flesh convert,
Soften, and melt, and pierce, and break
An adamantine heart.
7. O! that in me the sacred fire
Might now begin to glow;
Burn up the dross of base desire
And make the mountains flow!
8. O that it now from heaven might fall,

And all my sins consume!
Come, Holy Ghost, for thee I call,
Spirit of burning, come!

9. Refining fire, go through my heart,
Illuminate my soul,
Scatter thy life through every part
And sanctify the whole.
10. Sorrow and self shall then expire,
While entered into rest,
I only live my God t' admire,
My God for ever blest.
11. No longer then my heart shall mourn,
While purified by grace,
I only for his glory burn,
And always see his face.
12. My steadfast soul, from falling free,
Can now no longer move;
Jesus is all the world to me,
And all my heart is love.

Example #2 is from *Scripture Hymns* (1762) based on Matthew 5:48

1. Wouldst thou require what cannot be?

The thing impossible to me

Is possible with God:

I trust thy truth to make me just,

The omnipotence of love I trust,

The virtue of thy blood.

2. “Ye shall be perfect” here below

He spoke it, and it must be so;

But first he said, “Be poor;

Hunger, and thirst, repent, and grieve,

In humble, meek obedience live,

And labour, and endure.

3. Thus, thus may I the prize pursue,
And all the appointed paths pass through

To perfect poverty:

Thus, let me, Lord, thyself attain,

And give thee up thine own again,

Forever lost in thee.

Example #3 is from *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739)

1. Rise my soul with ardor rise,
Breathe thy wishes to the skies;
Freely pour out all thy mind,
Seek, and thou art sure to find;
Ready art thou to receive?
Readier is thy God to give.

2. Heavenly Father, Lord of all,
Hear, and show thou hear'st my call;
Let my cries thy throne assail
Entering now within the veil:
Give the benefits I claim—
Lord, I ask in Jesu's name!

3. Friend of sinners, King of saints,
Answer my minutest wants,
All my largest thoughts require,
Grant me all my heart's desire,
Give me, till my cup run o'er,
All, and infinitely more.

4. Meek and lowly be my mind,
Pure my heart, my will resigned!
Keep me dead to all below,
Only Christ resolved to know,
Firm and disengaged and free,
Seeking all my bliss in thee.

5. Suffer me no more to grieve
Wanting what thou long'st to give,
Show me all thy goodness, Lord,
Beaming from th' incarnate Word,
Christ, in whom thy glories shine,
Efflux of the light divine.

6. Since the Son hath made me free,
Let me taste my liberty,
Thee behold with open face,
Triumph in thy saving grace,

Thy great will delight to prove,
Glory in thy perfect love.

7. Since the Son hath bought my peace,
Mine thou art, as I am his:
Mine the Comforter I see,
Christ is full of grace for me:
Mine (the purchase of his blood)
All the plenitude of God.
8. Abba, Father! Hear thy child
Late in Jesus reconciled!
Hear, and all the graces shower,
All the joy, and peace, and pow'r,
All my Saviour asks above,
All the life and heaven of love.
9. Lord, I will not let thee go,
Till THE BLESSING thou bestow:
Hear my advocate divine;
Lo! To his my suit I join:
Joined to his it cannot fail—
Bless me, for I *will* prevail!
10. Stoop from thy eternal throne,
See, thy promise calls thee down!
High and lofty as thou art,
Dwell within my worthless heart!
My poor fainting soul revive;
Here forever walk and live.
11. Heavenly Adam, life divine,
Change my nature into thine:
Move and spread throughout my soul,
Actuate and fill the whole:
Be it I no longer now,
Living in the flesh, but thou.
12. Holy Ghost, no more delay,
Come, and in thy temple stay;

Now thy inward witness bear
Strong and permanent, and clear;
Spring of life, thyself impart,
Rise eternal in my heart!

Example #4 is from *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1742)

- 1 O for an heart to praise my God,
An heart from sin set free!
An heart that always feels thy blood,
So freely spilt for me!
- 2 An heart resigned, submissive, meek,
My dear Redeemer's throne,
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone.
- 3 An humble, lowly, contrite heart,
Believing, true, and clean,
Which neither life nor death can part
From him that dwells within.
- 4 An heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine,
Perfect, and right, and pure and good,
A copy, Lord, of thine.
- 5 Thy tender heart is still the same,
And melts at human woe:
Jesu, for thee distressed I am,
I want thy love to know.
- 6 My heart, thou know'st can never rest,
Till thou create my peace,
Till of my Eden repossessed,
From self, and sin I cease.
- 7 Fruit of thy gracious lips, on me
Bestow that peace unknown,
The hidden manna, and the tree
Of life, and the white stone.
- 8 Thy nature, dearest Lord, impart,
Come quickly from above,
Write thy new name upon my heart,
Thy new, best name of love.