

CALL TO WORSHIP

Harpeth Baptist Church

Fear God, Honor the King

The church has good reasons for submitting to man's authority

Text: 1 Peter 2:11-17

Responsive Reading: John 14:15-24

SONGS

8:30 service

267 The Light of the World Is Jesus

248 O How I Love Jesus

608 He the Pearly Gates Will Open

336 Redeemed

11:00 service

239 In Christ Alone

172 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

All I Have Is Christ

[This week's special music - All I Have Is Christ \(Click here to listen\)](#)

[What Do the Lyrics of "a Mighty Fortress" Mean?](#)

Matt Rudd wrote an article by this name on the Canadian edition of The Gospel Coalition blog. I have included a small excerpt that explains the meaning of the lyrics. There is only enough room here for 1 verse, but the article includes the whole song and more. To read the article, [click here](#).

Many churches have been singing an old song more frequently in recent months in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is likely the only song in any of our repertoires written by Martin Luther, if not by any Reformer. Luther wrote the song based on Psalm 46 while focusing on how Jesus fulfills the psalm. I want to tackle the job of explaining the meaning of the lyrics, so that when you next sing this in church, you can sing at full gusto, with your whole heart, and actually know what you're singing.

(There is only room here for the second verse. To read the entire article, [click here](#))

Verse 2

**Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;**

If we tried to stand against the devil on our own strength—to rely on (confide in) ourselves, we would lose terribly. All "our striving"—any efforts we make against him—would be futile.

**Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing:**

We would be losing unless God has a Man on our side. If God appointed a Man ("of his own choosing") to fight on our behalf against Satan, sin, and death, all of a sudden things aren't as hopeless.

Dost ask who that may be?

You might be wondering: Who might that be?

Christ Jesus, it is He;

It's Jesus! God has chosen Jesus to be a Man—the perfect Man, the second Adam—who is on our side. Praise the Lord. And then it gets even better as we consider who Jesus is:

Lord Sabaoth His Name,

"Lord Sabaoth" simply means "Lord of Hosts." "Hosts" is not talking about hospitality, by the way; it's talking about armies—armies of angels. Jesus is the Lord of the armies of angelic warriors of heaven.

From age to age the same,

Jesus Christ—the same yesterday, today, and forever. The same Man who died and conquered death through his resurrection is the same today, and will be the same forever.

And He must win the battle.

It's not just "He must" win, as if it's our only hope if he wins (though that is absolutely true); this implies a certainty that Jesus will win the battle. He must win, because there's no other possible outcome in this war. It's a foregone conclusion. Again, praise the Lord.