

ABIDE WITH ME.

7-16-2023 PM

I. HISTORY OF THE SONG:

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) and his wife Ann were pastors of a little fishing town in Devonshire England, for 23 years. Although Henry's health was compromised, he worked tirelessly ministering to his parish, taking care of his family, and writing poems and hymns.

In 1844, Henry was diagnosed with Tuberculosis. Over the next three years his physical condition deteriorated until finally on September 4, 1847, at the age of 54, he stood in the pulpit for the last time to deliver his farewell message.

That same afternoon, after taking a walk on the beach, Henry retired to his room. He emerged about an hour later with a written copy of *Abide With Me*. He left soon after for a trip to Italy, to get away from the cold, damp coastal weather. While en route to his destination, he mailed a revised copy of *Abide With Me* to his wife. A few days later while resting in a hotel on the French Riviera, Henry passed away. *Abide With Me* was put to music by William H. Monk (1823-1889), and made its debut at Henry's memorial service.

II. NOTICE SOME UNUSUAL WORDS?

- A. **Eventide** – (1st Stanza) old English word - darkness, evening.
- B. **Ebbs** – (2nd Stanza) decline, fade away.
- C. **Foil** – (3rd Stanza) prevent from being successful.

III. WHAT DOES THE SONG TEACH?

- A. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
 - 1. Swiftness of life (**Job 7:6; James 4:14**).
 - 2. Assurance of our Helper (**Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 13:5**).
- B. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.
 - 1. Swiftness of life and the uncertainty of earthly treasure (**1 Tim. 6:17-19**).
 - 2. We serve an unchanging God (**Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; 2 Timothy 1:12**).
- C. I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
 - 1. Our need for Him is never ending.
 - 2. Our relationship with the Lord gives us confidence (**James 4:7-8; Psalm 23**).
- D. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears not bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me.
 - 1. God's promised to help us overcome whatever may come (**Romans 8:31-39**)!
 - 2. God has removed the sting of death (**1 Corinthians 15:55-58; Phil. 1:23**).
- E. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom and point me to the skies. Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.
 - 1. The power of Christ's sacrifice points us to heaven (**John 12:32-33; 1 Cor. 1:22-23**).
 - 2. Paradise lost: (**Genesis 3**); Paradise regained for the faithful (**1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Rev. 2:10**).

IV. APPEAL:

- A. Obey the gospel (**Acts 2:38**).
- B. Maintain our fellowship with the Lord. Abide with HIM!