

Jesus, Lover Of My Soul: Paul Oakley (1995)¹

Visualisation: Theodirectional 2

Analysis: There is a bit in *Canticles* about *him whom my soul loveth* (KJV: 3:4)—the love of her life, her heart’s love. Charles Wesley threw in the converse, *lover of my soul*, and I guess the expression came from linking the *Canticle’s* lover to Jesus *vis-à-vis* the church. I don’t like it, but don’t downgrade as boyfriendism. What I downgrade is its sheer boasting: *I will follow you all my days*. Fiddlesticks.

We might *want* him *to know*, but maybe he wants us to know that he knows us better than we know ourselves, thank you very much. Still, maybe it brings a good humoured smile to his face. *No one else in history is like you*, sounds profound, but could imply that there is an infinite qualitative distinction between Jesus and mankind, an Apollinarianism effectively excluding his humanity (Heb.2:17). *Is like you* in what way or ways? It’s an incompletism. This could be amended by allusion to incarnation, his method of coming. The stanza, colourfully enriched by connections to *Revelation*, has some good things to sing about.

The chorus is covered in heresy. It throws in the unknown *it* (a pronoun without a noun). Whatever *it* is, *it* is *all about* Jesus. I suspect soft unitarianism. And whatever *it* is, *it* (*all this*) is *for* him, since blow the father & the spirit, Jesus *alone* is *God*, the monopersonal god. Hard unitarianism.

Sadly, one out of the loop could imagine that Jesus has an ego problem, clamouring for *glory & fame*, and the song makes no effort to educate them. Sanity plays shy. We should indeed surrender to Jesus and glorify him. But the hidden reason is that such this helps him to be the blessing to us and to humanity that he seeks to be for our sakes—it’s (meaning *redemption*) all about us! The chorus closes on another vain boast.

Suggestions: Replace *lover of my soul*, **by** *saviour of my life*, *I will follow*, **by** *I would follow*, *is like you*, **by** *came like you*. The chorus needs a thorough rewrite, but the last line could suffice by replacing *you alone are God and I surrender to your ways*, **by** *you alone are lord, and I’d surrender to your ways*.

BAG	A	B	C	D	E	F	G ^{1,2}	H ^{1,2}	I	J ^{1,2,3}	K	L	M	Total	Grade
	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	72	-	-	8	-	-	16	E

¹ www.praisecharts.com/songs/details/20087/jesus-lover-of-my-soul-its-all-about-you-sheet-music

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A = Mixed Themes (-4); B = Incompletism (-4); C = Archaism (-8);

D = Blessing God (-4); E = Buddy or Boyfriend (-4); F = Polytheism (-8); G = Voxdeism: Soft (-24), Hard (-48);

H = Unitarianism: Soft (-60), Hard (-72); I = Misdirection (-12); J = Misvisualisation: Soft (-12), Mid (-24),

Hard (-36); K = Boasting (-8); L = Decontextualising (-8); M = Hermit Harakiri (-12)