THE WESLEY HYMNS AS A GUIDE TO SCRIPTURAL TEACHING

In doing research on Charles Wesley's hymns I discovered they are saturated with direct references to Scripture verses. This led me to find a writer who took selected hymns of Charles Wesley and put Scriptural references after each hymn line. This must have been an enormous task to come up with Scriptural references to numerous hymns written by Charles Wesley.

I am referring to a book written 25 years ago by John Lawson entitled The Wesley Hymns As a Guide to Scriptural Teaching. This is a book that will never be obsolete.

Lawson organizes the book around 53 doctrinal statements and first gives a brief description of the doctrine followed by a selected Wesleyan hymn related to the doctrine.

What a gold mine for preaching on the major doctrines of the faith. Out of the 53 doctrinal statements listed you can easily find a Wesleyan hymn to use in your sermon. Many of the Wesleyan hymns in this book are not in our hymnal, so you will receive a fresh look at hymns you may not be familiar with.

I believe you will discover that the Methodist church was able to "sing their doctrine" through these timeless hymns of the faith. Most of the hymns center on God Almighty; his greatness, goodness, and salvation, rather than on human experience and social justice.

A helpful index of first lines of hymns and index of Scriptural passages is given at the conclusion of the book.

I think this book is useful to both clergy and laity. It has been a resource for sermons as well as devotional reading for me.

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