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Mormonbasics.com is humbled to bring you a commentary on the hymns published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This commentary is presented in a two-column format. The original text, as presented in the hymnbook published by the LDS Church, is in the left column. The comments on the right are provided by mormonbasics.com. We have even changed the color of the text so there won't be any question as to who wrote what.

**Personal note from the commentator:**

The hymns of the Church are sacred text. The Lord has made it very clear to us through his prophets that the singing of hymns is a form of prayer, and as such is sacred communication. Much of the sacred Spirit and reverence we experience in our meetings, especially Sacrament Meeting, comes from the Spirit that accompanies the singing of the hymns.

The hymns are written in poetic form, and as such are able to take certain licenses and liberties with the English language that cannot normally be expressed in any other way. It is certainly not the aim of this commentary to improve on the beauty of the poetic expressions found in our sacred hymns. As a teacher of English to those who speak other languages, I have found that many of the hymns have expressions that are difficult for some people to understand.

Because hymns are written to fit a set rhythmic pattern or meter, often the expression has to be condensed to fit in a small space, but still convey its intended meaning. It is the combination of the rhythm, text, and music that create such a powerful Spiritual experience when singing the hymns. My attempts to explain some of the meaning behind the text should not detract from the original meaning, nor should it replace the original meaning. Hymns, like parables, take on different meanings as the circumstances of our lives change. My commentary is only a starting point for (hopefully) a better understanding of the overall meaning of the hymn in this work. Anyone else writing this same commentary would have different perspectives and points to make. That is the nature of a commentary. I pray that what I say will, in some way, help in your understanding of this hymn. Since this is a personal study of the hymns, I will sometimes use the first person when writing the commentary.

Kelly P. Merrill

## Sweet Is the Peace the Gospel Brings

1. Sweet is the peace the gospel brings  
To seeking minds and true.  
With light refulgent on its wings,  
It clears the human view.

To those who are truly seeking the truth, the gospel brings great peace. Mankind has walked and lived in darkness for a long time. This verse compares the spiritual enlightenment to a bird that has refulgent wings or wings that radiate or shine light. The light (knowledge) we receive from the gospel helps us see clearly what we need to do. It gives us understanding.

2. Its laws and precepts are divine  
And show a Father's care.  
Transcendent love and mercy shine  
In each injunction there.

The laws and rules of the gospel of Christ show us how much our Father in Heaven cares about us. Each requirement (injunction) of the gospel of Christ show us how God's love and mercy go beyond (transcend) anything we have imagined before.

3. Faithless tradition flees its pow'r,  
And unbelief gives way.  
The gloomy clouds, which used to low'r,  
Submit to reason's sway.

The traditions and the unbelief of the old religious ways that could not produce real faith are replaced by the truth. The image this verse is painting is that of a great force that cannot be resisted by the old ways. It runs away (flees its power) and get out of the way (gives way) of the force that has appeared.

While mankind lived without hope, represented by the gloomy (depressing) clouds, which hung low (used to lower) over our heads, life was hard. But now truth gives us hope (reason), and its influence have chased away those gloomy, dark clouds.

4. May we who know the sacred Name  
From every sin depart.  
Then will the Spirit's constant flame  
Preserve us pure in heart.

The sacred name is Christ. We who know Christ, that is, we who are members of His Church should leave every kind of sin behind us. Only then will the influence (constant flame) of the Spirit (Holy Ghost) keep (preserve) us pure in our hearts. That is, keep us clean before the Lord.

5. Ere long the tempter's power will cease,  
And sin no more annoy,  
No wrangling sects disturb our peace,  
Or mar our heartfelt joy.

It will not be long before Satan's power to tempt us will stop, and sin will no longer bother us. There will not be any churches arguing (wrangling sects) to disturb our peace or ruin (mar) our heartfelt joy.

6. That which we have in part received  
Will be in part no more,  
For he in whom we all believe  
To us will all restore.

We have not yet received all of the gospel truths the Lord has in store for us. We have only received part of the truth so far. Christ will, at some point in the future, restore all of the truth to us.

7. In patience, then, let us possess  
Our souls till he appear.  
On to our mark of calling press;  
Redemption draweth near.

Basically, this is saying that we need to hold steady in what we are doing, exercising patience in the Lord's timing. We know that the rest of the truth will be given to us when Christ comes again, so we need to be patient until then. In the meantime we need to press forward or move ahead with the assignments we have been given so we are at the place (the mark) he wants to us to be when he returns. Christ's redemption or the day of His return is getting close.

### MUSIC

Alfred M. Durham, 1872-1957. (c) 1948 IRI

TEXT

Mary Ann Morton Durham, 1826-1897

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 119:165, Psalm 119:97-104