Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 16th, 2022

Text: Romans 8:29-30

### Intro

1. Patterns or formulas are designed to be followed to produce the desired product.
   1. Patterns & formulas can be altered to fit the need – based on the one following (such as recipes)
2. Molds are used to conform a substance into the desired image or product.
   1. Molds cause something to change into the likeness of the mold.
3. Our lives are to conform to the image of Christ – to fit the mold! (Galatians 3:27)
   1. Romans 8:28-30: To be “justified” & “glorified” we must be conformed to His image!
   2. I Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1-2: We are to imitate Christ (God) & walk in love.
   3. “Conform”: signifies having the same form as another (Vine).
4. God used the imagery of a potter and clay to illustrate man being molded into what God intended – Isaiah 64:8
5. “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” (1907) by Adelaide Addison Pollard (1862-1934)
   1. Adelaide Addison Pollard was born Nov. 27, 1862, into a Presbyterian family.
   2. She was a talented writer of both prose and poetry and produced many religious articles and hymns.
   3. No one really knows how many hymns with which she should be credited because she rarely signed them, and when she did she used only the initials A. A. P.
   4. Despite being sick, she traveled all over speaking on the importance of Bible teaching.
   5. After becoming discouraged at a failed trip to Africa, she attended a prayer meeting, and heard someone say, “It’s all right, Lord! It doesn’t matter what you bring into our lives. Just have your own way with us.”
   6. Thinking about these words on her way home, she put the hymn on paper before retiring that night in 1902 and it was published in 1907 with the tune, “Adelaide” by George Coles Stebbins (1846-1945).
6. Some people want to fit God into the mold of their lives, but God says our lives must fit the mold of His Son!

#### God is the Potter, Man is the Clay

* 1. Stanza 1 says that we must realize that God is in control – Potter and clay:
     1. “Have Thine own way, Lord, Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me After Thy will, While I am waiting, Yielded and still.”
  2. Romans 8:29-30; 9:20-21: God is the potter, and we are the clay!
  3. Jeremiah 18:3-4: We must be molded by the Lord. As in the story of Jeremiah and the potter’s vessel, we should see ourselves as the defective pot, needing to be broken and then reformed by the Master Potter after His will (Isaiah 64:8).
     1. God sent His Son to show how men in a world corrupted by sin and convulsing in the consequences, could be what God wanted them to be (Heb. 4:15).
     2. *Rom. 5:14, 18-19:* Through Adam came sin & condemnation – Through Christ came justification & righteousness!
  4. Romans 6:13-16: To conform to the Son, we must have the attitude, “Have Thine own way, Lord!”
  5. Becoming God’s person cannot be achieved by:
     1. Psychology
     2. Philosophy
     3. Human Theology
  6. We will only fit God’s mold by “conforming to the image” of Christ! *(Romans 8:29)*

#### Submit to God and Be Washed from Sin!

* 1. Stanza 2 says that we must look to the Lord to cleanse us from sin:
     1. “Have Thine own way, Lord, Have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Master, today! Whiter than snow, Lord, Wash me just now, As in Thy presence Humbly I bow.”
  2. Psalm 139:23-24: Our prayers, like David’s, should be for God to search our hearts!
  3. Isaiah 1:18-20: After He has searched us, we should ask Him to forgive us. The first step in our remolding is to be washed as white as snow.
     1. Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16; I Cor. 6:11; Rev. 7:14: To be forgiven of sins one must obey the gospel through the waters of baptism, & have their sins washed away!
     2. Rom. 12:1-2: Transforming happens by the renewal of one’s mind!
     3. Mt. 15:7-9: Rules & rituals, without a change of heart, will not produce a Christ-like life!
  4. Philippians 2:10: We must humbly bow before Him in complete submission to His will (Either we will in this life willingly, or we will be forced to our knees as conquered enemies) – ***Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord!***
     1. So many people want to conform God’s word into their mold and transform it to what’s convenient and comfortable to them!
  5. The child of God will transform his/her life by the renewing of their mind (thoughts)!

#### Christ Living In Us

* 1. Stanza 4 says that we must live so that others will see Christ in us:
     1. “Have Thine own way, Lord, Have Thine own way! Hold o’er my being Absolute sway! Fill with Thy Spirit Till all shall see Christ only, always, Living in me.”
  2. Colossians 3:15: Christ wants to hold over our being absolute sway or rule in our hearts.
  3. Ephesians 5:18: He also wants us to be filled with the influence of His Spirit.
  4. Galatians 2:20: Only as we yield ourselves completely to God’s will by crucifying ourselves can others begin to see in us the influence of Christ in our lives *(Mt. 5:16).*
  5. Colossians 3:10-11 (9-11): To fit the mold, first, we must have the right relationship with God’s Son:
     1. Rom. 6:1-7; Gal. 3:27-28: We must get *into* Christ. (Obedience to gospel)
     2. Col. 1:27: He must be *in* us.
     3. I Pet. 2:21: He is our example (pattern).
     4. More than a pattern (formula) to be followed, it is a mold we must fit into!
     5. The pattern (example) to follow can only be accomplished if we fit His mold!
  6. If we are *in* Christ, others around us will see *Christ in* us!

## Conclusion

1. Philippians 3:20-21: What awaits us: “conformed to the body of His glory.”
   1. Conform your lives to Christ on earth – God will conform you to His body in Heaven!
   2. I John 3:1-3: We shall be like Him!
2. Too many people spend their whole lives pursuing their own goals and doing what they want to do rather than taking time to seek what God would have them do!
3. The life of a saint must be one of complete submission to the will of God – recognizing the Potter and clay relationship to God!
4. This attitude of submission is well exemplified by the plea, “Have Thine Own Way, Lord!”
5. We must conform to His image ***NOW*** if we want to be conformed to His glory for eternity!
6. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. You are outside the mold. Repent and be baptized!
7. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent & Conform your life to His!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord” (1907)

by Adelaide Addison Pollard (1862-1934)

<http://hymnstudiesblog.wordpress.com/2008/06/11/quothave-thine-own-way-lordquot/>



Adelaide A Pollard (Undated Photo)

**“HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD”**

“We are the clay, and Thou our potter; and we shall be the work of Thy hand” (Isa. 64.8)

A hymn that talks about our being the clay and God the potter is “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” (#146 in Hymns for Worship Revised and #84 in Sacred Selections for the Church). The text was written by Adelaide Addison Pollard, who was born Nov. 27, 1862, into the Presbyterian family of James and Rebecca Pollard. After attending the Denmark Academy at Denmark, IA, another school in Valparaiso, IN, and the Boston, MA, School of Oratory, she moved to Chicago, IL, and taught in several girls’ schools. For most of her life, she was usually associated with various small, independent fundamentalist sects, but she was a talented writer of both prose and poetry and produced many religious articles and hymns. No one really knows how many hymns with which she should be credited because she rarely signed them, and when she did she used only the initials A. A. P.

However, Miss Pollard’s main interest was evangelism. Throughout her life, her frail body was plagued with weakness caused by diabetes, but she travelled all over the United States and spoke to numerous groups about the importance on Bible teaching. In 1902, at the age of forty and still single she made plans to go to Africa as a missionary teacher under the leadership of a man named Sanford. When she was on the verge of preparing to sail, at the last minute her funding failed and she was forced to cancel her trip. The discouraged woman attended a prayer meeting, and while sitting quietly she heard someone make the following statement: “It’s all right, Lord! It doesn’t matter what you bring into our lives. Just have your own way with us.” Thinking about these words on her way home, she put the hymn on paper before retiring that night.

The tune (Adelaide or Holy Desire) was composed later by George Coles Stebbins (1846-1945). The song was first published in his 1907 collection, the Northfield Hymnal. After failing to go to Africa, Adelaide taught for several years in a missionary training school at Nyack-on-the-Hudson, NY. However, when she was nearly sixty, she did make a short trip to Africa just prior to World War I, but with the outbreak of hostilities she was sent to work in England and Scotland. After the war, she returned to America and resumed her speaking tours, despite failing health. On Dec. 20, 1934, at the age of 72, she became ill while waiting to board a train in New York City, NY, to go to a speaking engagement in Philadelphia, PA, and died soon afterward that same day. She never married. Her body was buried at Ft. Madison in her native state of Iowa, not far from her hometown.