

And can it be

CHARLES WESLEY (1738)

And can it be, that I should gain
an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
for me? Who him to death pursued.
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

interest: advantage, benefit, right to a share in, right to a spiritual privilege

'Tis mystery all: the immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore!
Let angel minds enquire no more.

“The good news... into which angels long to look.”
1 Peter 1:12

He left his Father's throne above
(so free, so infinite his grace!),
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God! it found out me!

free: generous
“Christ... emptied himself, ...born in the likeness of men.” *Phil. 2:5,7*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night.
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

quickenings: life-giving
“A light... to bring out... from the prison those who sit in darkness.” *Isaiah 42:6-7*

Still the small inward voice I hear,
that whispers all my sins forgiven;
still the atoning blood is near,
that quenched the wrath of hostile heaven.
I feel the life his wounds impart;
I feel my Savior in my heart.

“While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.” *Romans 5:10, cf. Ephesians 2:15-16*

No condemnation now I dread,
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ my own!

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” *Romans 8:1*

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace.” *Hebrews 4:16*