

## ***Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus!***

Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup> we will sing ***Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*** as the recessional hymn. I am always reminded of my mother when I hear or sing this hymn. Mom would frequently offer this advice as I was leaving the house for some reason or other; “Remember, stand up straight; stand up for what’s right; and stand up for Jesus! I never really thought much about her combination of instructions—good posture, moral compass, and testimony of faith—all in one! So, I thought, let’s look at the history of this beloved hymn that I have known since childhood.

The text of ***Stand Up Stand Up for Jesus*** was inspired by the dying message of **Dudley Tyng**, a young preacher in Philadelphia who was forced to resign from his Episcopal church pastorate for speaking out against slavery in the mid 1800s. Tyng began serving in a new church, The Church of the Covenant, and became involved in The Evangelical Episcopal Church Movement which was strong in cities along the eastern seaboard. He helped establish a local chapter of the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA), which existed to meet the physical and spiritual needs of its members. Tyng and other ministers preached revival meetings at the local YMCA during lunch and soon began to attract thousands (this revival period is known as “The Work of God in Philadelphia.”) In March of 1858 Tyng preached a rousing sermon to 5,000 young men at the YMCA and over 1,000 made a profession of faith. During his sermon he supposedly said “I would rather that this right arm were amputated at the trunk than that I should come short of my duty to you in delivering God’s message.” It was a prophetic statement.

A few days later on April 13, 1858 Tyng left the study of his country home to visit his barn where a mule was harnessed to a machine that was shelling corn. When he patted the mule his sleeve was caught in the cogs of the wheel and his arm was badly maimed and required amputation. He died the following week from the injury, at the age of 33. Before he died, he was asked if he had a message for the ministers at the revival and he replied “Tell them, ‘Let us all stand up for Jesus.’” His friend and fellow preacher, Dr. George Duffield, was touched by the words and wrote the hymn *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*, the lyrics he read at the conclusion of his sermon the following Sunday as a tribute to his friend.

The text uses imagery from Ephesians chapter 6 where Paul speaks of our fight against the “spiritual forces” of darkness. Duffield had linked the text to the life-work of his friend, and the poem began:

*Stand up, stand up, for Jesus, ye soldiers of the Cross;  
Lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss.  
From vict’ry unto vict’ry his army he shall lead  
Till ev’ry foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.*

One verse alluded to the cause of his death...

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in his strength alone;  
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the gospel armour, each piece put on with prayer;  
Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.*

When the Civil War ravaged America a few years later, the hymn was sung by both sides of the conflict, and became a favorite of the African American troops in the Union Army. In memory of his friend, the cause of his death, and as a lasting reminder that we must always “Stand up for Jesus,” Duffield fixed a cob of corn to his study wall. The cob stayed there for the rest of his life.

**COME AND WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 10 AM**  
**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**