

**SIDNEY COX MESSAGE
TO THE CADETS OF THE SALVATION ARMY
TRAINING COLLEGE
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION
CAMP ALLEGHENY, ELLWOOD CITY, PA.
SEPTEMBER 1, 1963**

Editorial Note: This tape was given to me by a good friend, Salvation Army Captain Robert Parker upon my joining the Board of Visitors at The Salvation Army College for Officers Training in Atlanta in 1996. Robert was on the faculty staff at the college at the time. His letter which is included explains the background of this audio recording, which I won't repeat here.

Sidney Cox was 76 years of age at the time of this occasion. This was one of many Salvation Army meetings to which he was invited to share his message and music. He had retired from the Army 19 years prior, in 1944, but was still much in demand and was truly an iconic figure in Army circles because of his influence and musical contribution..

Here he is addressing the current "Session" of Salvation Army cadets (18 – 24 year olds) attending the Salvation Army training college in New York. He was very much at home in this setting as he had served as the Principal of the Army's training college in Atlanta from 1937 – 1942. He is particularly spirited in this role of mentor, leader, teacher and preacher. His address also contains some very special personal renditions of some of his best known songs and choruses.

Side 1 contains the message. Side 2 is blank.

J. Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney and Violet Cox. January 2009.

Stories Behind Some of the Sidney Cox Songs
Themes From II Timothy

Your Divisional Commander and those who are responsible for this Camp Meeting have given me a great privilege and I appreciate it. Gives me a privilege first of all to say to a group of people that I do not remember meeting before with the exception of one or two here and there, something that's been upon my heart for a long time and I say it in a good many places – I appreciate the fact that you have kept alive these songs that God has given to me down through the years, and I'm grateful that you have kept them alive.

It was 45 years ago when I wrote, "You can tell out the sweet story. You, yes, you." It was 44 years ago when I wrote, "I was wandering in the wilderness, far away. But, Jesus sought me in tenderness." By the way, do you remember that? Do you? Do you remember that? Key of C, please. Your Divisional Commander's wise. I've got a little

sense too and I'll tell you why I say that. I'm going to repeat something I said yesterday. I can see the clock and you can't. Just leave it to me now, it's going to be all right. Everybody singing it together, will you please. "I was wandering in the wilderness." Together –

I was wandering in the wilderness,
Far away, far away,
But Jesus sought me in tenderness,
Happy day, happy day.

Thanks for remembering it. You're the nicest people I've seen since I saw other folks last week. (Laughing) You certainly are. You're the nicest people. Thanks for remembering.

Do you remember, "I Love Him Better Everyday," because that was written along about the same time? Do you remember that? Any of you remember the song called, "The Wonderful Guide?" – guiding me safely, safely whatever betide. Storm clouds may gather around me, but I have a wonderful guide." Do you remember? Do you remember? Thanks for remembering. You're the nicest folks, you sure are. Thanks for remembering.

Do you remember a little song that was written about the lake of Galilee? Do you remember that? Key of C, please.

Follow thou me, he calls again,
And I will make you fishers of men,
As in the days by Galilee,
Jesus is calling you and me.

One of the two men I've met in the Army who reminded me more than any others of Jesus, one stood on a platform when I was a youngster there in the audience, and he said these words. And when I repeat them, you tell me who said it. Who said these words? "By the pathway of duty, there ever flows the river of God's grace." Now who said that? Somebody tell me? You know your Army history? Who was the 2nd Chief of Staff? Tell me, do you know your Army history? You folks have done your lessons, who was the 2nd Chief of Staff? (Laughter) You need an old fellow to come meet you from Detroit to remind you that that's something you don't know – you better learn it. The 2nd Chief of Staff was Commissioner T. Henry Howard, and he was the 2nd most Christlike man I ever saw. The most Christlike man I ever saw was Commissioner [Samuel Logan] Brengle. But he was this man and he used to say, "Remember, the river is as real as the duty." Now the duty seems right real sometimes, doesn't it? But don't forget, the river is as real as the duty.¹

And so we could go on and on and on and on. You were just singing a few minutes ago, "There's A Melody In My Heart Today." Do you know that one of our great Salvation Army commissioners was plodding along the road in Korea on what we call that "Death

¹ He is recounting here the story of his inspiration for writing one of his most well-known songs, "By The Pathway of Duty."

March” where men were dropping by the side of the road, and when they were unable to go any further, they were dragged off into the bushes and disposed of, that he was in the midst of it all and didn’t know whether the next step would be his last. Plodding along at the utmost extremity of physical endurance and then he said, “There came to my heart and to my thought, an old Army chorus,” and he said, “I felt myself singing ‘There’s A Melody In My Heart Today,’ I’ve carried a heavy burden but it rolled away, there’s a melody in my heart today.” And he said, “I felt new strength coming and I never felt the intolerable weariness again,” and reached the end of the journey. Do you read your *War Cry*s or do you just sell ‘em? (Laughter) Do you? Do you read ‘em? Because if you read ‘em, you would have found that story in a half a dozen *War Cry*s. That’s where I got it, I read it in the *War Cry*. Now the name of the commissioner please, will somebody tell me the name of our great missionary commissioner who was on that death march, will somebody tell me? (Response: Commissioner Lord) Commissioner Lord, exactly! Commissioner Lord.

Why I could go on and on, but I reminded you a minute or two ago that I could see the clock and you can’t, so thanks very much for listening, and it’s nice to be able to talk to you a little bit about these songs and I’m grateful for your kindness in keeping them going. Keep them going, will you? You’ll get a new one every once in a while. I introduced a new chorus here yesterday with the words, “I want to tell you what the Lord has done, what the Lord has done for me.” Keep your eye on *The Musical Salvationist*,² if you know what that is. I say that because there’s a lot of Salvationists that don’t know at all, never see it at all, don’t bother about it anymore. It’s one of our great publications just the same. Sure is, keep your eye on it because I’ve just received a letter from the International Music Department saying that song had been accepted and it will be out in print with the verses before very long. Keep your eye on it, you’ll be able to get a copy of it. “I want to tell you what the Lord has done, what the Lord has done for me.”³

You heard a lovely passage of scripture just a moment ago. I thought that was a lovely reading, didn’t you? By the way, do you take any notice of those scripture readings or is it just one little incidental fragmentary item on a program? Did you notice the lovely way in which Mrs. Siler read that word this morning? Now she didn’t know I was going to say that at all. I didn’t say that to her, but did you notice the beautiful way she read those verses out of the first chapter of the book of the Revelation? - that lovely description of our Lord. Did you notice it? Did you notice the beautiful way in which these first six verses of II Timothy were read this afternoon? You know one of the fine arts of our business is reading the scripture. You know you do something when you release the word of God into an audience like this, you fill the room with perfume. Is that old fashion? Am

² *The Musical Salvationist* is a periodical publication by The Salvation Army Music Department in London. They review new compositions of Salvationist composers from around the world, select the best and include them in this publication. It is then distributed literally around the world to Salvation Army posts for utilization in their local music programs.

³ The title of this composition is, “This Is What The Lord Has Done.” He wrote it in the early 1960s for the transient men of The Salvation Army Men’s Social Service Center in Detroit, where he was often invited to preach and teach. Actually, the chorus had been in existence for some time, but he was inspired to add verses to the chorus, and then submit it to *The Musical Salvationist*, whose editors accepted it for publication.

I right about that or is it old fashion, or is it just my spiritual nose? Is it? Am I old fashion about that? That when you release the music of it in the air, it fills it with perfume. And it does. It's been doing that all day long – the word of God there.

That last letter that Paul wrote, II Timothy, came out of a Roman prison cell. Let me give you one simple little hint that will help you in your own personal study of it. And I wouldn't give you ten cents for you or a dozen like you if you're not interested enough to get down and find out what the last thing Paul said – read them in that second _____. I wouldn't give you ten cents a dozen for folks who call themselves Christians and are not interested enough to find out what the greatest of all the apostles had to say when he wrote his last letter. What did he say? Writing to a young man, going to carry the burden. Going to write a last letter, out of a Roman prison cell – dark and damp and dismal, a hole in the roof, never get out of it again. He's been in prison before, but he said I'm coming to get out of here and I'm going to see you. He doesn't say that this time, he knows he isn't. The only time he'll ever get out of there were when Roman soldiers lead him down the road, and there's an executioners block, and I have sometimes wondered whether in the quietness of that Roman prison cell, chained to a Roman guard, he could hear outside the sound of footsteps. And whether he could hear a sound that seemed as if somebody was sharpening an axe. I have sometimes wondered.

But he writes a letter out of it and reaches a young man whose got to carry the responsibility, the responsibility that had prematurely aged the Apostle Paul. Do you remember when he was writing to Philemon he said, "Paul, the aged is writing to you" – spoke of himself in that way. I'll give you a little secret, the man talking to you is 16 years older than Paul was when he wrote that. Now that doesn't tell you how old I am, not by any means, cause you've got to find out first of all how old Paul was when he wrote to Philemon. That's the first thing there. I'm not as old as I look, I'm older. (Laughter). But here he is writing a letter. Let me give you a little hint about it – you will find all the way through, the number three. Everything in it occurs in series of threes. Somebody with more sense than I'll ever have said, "This is a letter that was written by an old man, to a young man about the God man." Did you see it? In that lovely introduction you find him saying grace, mercy and peace. Now you only find it here. It's nearly always grace and peace.

By the way, did you notice that those three words all have five letters each – grace, mercy, peace. Now let me give you something here – it's not important. I don't want you to lean over backwards or underscore it in a way it shouldn't be done, but you will find that nearly all the words connected with your redemption are five letter words. Have you ever noticed that? - cross, blood, Jesus, faith, trust. And you can go on down the line. Somebody figured out there are 32 words with five letters each, and they all center in your redemption. Now that isn't important, it's just an interesting little thing for folks who love the Bible, may be able to tuck away in their hearts. And as you read it, and you come to those little words like that with five letters, remember, they'll have something to do with your redemption.

An old man does three things at the beginning of that letter – he remembers, he gives thanks and he prays. I remember – “I give thanks upon every remembrance of you.”⁴ “Praying for you” – three things there. He tells young Timothy that he remembers three people in his home – his grandmother, Lois, his mother, Eunice and Timothy himself. And do you know what he remembered about them? He didn’t remember a lot of things about the home – didn’t remember the wall-to-wall carpets or the overstuffed furniture or anything else. Do you know what he remembered about it? He remembered the unfeigned faith that was in the mind and heart and faces of these people, this grandmother, this mother, “and I am persuaded in thee also.”⁵

And then he tells young Timothy, you must remember three things. Look them up if you will. And he tells him in this business, and you cadets had better remember this, that in this business of giving out the gospel, God gives us a threefold equipment- you’ll find it right in there if you care to look - power, love and a sound mind. And God will give you all of these. Yes he will. Don’t you dare to try to do his work without them, without his power, without his love, without his soundness that comes when he touches your mind! You can’t get at this thing and get men and women to know of the beauty of this and the loveliness of Christ and the sinfulness of sin unless God gives you an equipment like that.

Did you notice the three things there? Did you notice? Three times in this little book you will find the word “sound” appears – three times. A sound mind. And a sound mind expresses itself in sound words. Go down there in the 12th and 13th verses of this chapter and you’ll find this phrase, “the order of sound words.” Then you go to the 4th chapter and you’ll find in the last days, perilous times are coming and one of the evidences of the last days and the perilous times is, that men will not endure sound doctrine! Did you hear it? A sound mind, sound words, and a sound doctrine.

And among the three things that Paul reminds his friends of is this, “Timothy, you stir up the gift of God that is in thee.” Now we know what it was, it was the gift of faith. “I am persuaded it is in thee also.” The most precious thing you’ve got my dear is the faith that God implanted within your heart and it came by gift of God. It wasn’t the exercise of any natural faculty that you had. Not at all. The faith that saves is not at all the faith that you are exercising in the seat you’re sitting on, in the chair over here. Not at all. It’s something different all together. You exercise natural faith in natural things. But God implants it, it’s the gift of God. “By grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves!”⁶ Even the faith is of the gift of God. “Not of works, lest any man should boast.”⁷ And he says to young Timothy, “You stir up the gift of God that is in thee.”

All the way through this lovely book you will find words that are picture words. For instance, when Paul says in the last closing words, “The time of my departure is at hand,”⁸ what’s he talking about? What? I went down to the airport a day or two ago, a

⁴ A paraphrase of II Timothy 1:3.

⁵ II Timothy 1:5.

⁶ Ephesians 2:8.

⁷ Ephesians 2:9.

⁸ II Timothy 4:6

few hours ago. Notice there, “time of departure, time of departure!” Go down to the docks and see the places where the great steamers go out, “time of departure.” That’s what he’s talking about. It’s a picture word that has to do with a vessel starting out on a long journey, and Paul is ready to get onto God’s vessel and it’s going home and the orchestra is already playing, “Anchors Away!”

There’s another picture word, it’s the little word, “stir up.” That’s a word that’s connected with the tending of a fire. You know there are some old folks, or older folks in this room tonight who know what it used to mean to tend a fire. It doesn’t mean anything now, all we do is press a button, or just adjust a thermostat or something of the kind. We don’t tend fires anymore. That’s just old fashion stuff. But there used to be a time when tending a fire was a real job. You remember the two things you had to do? You had to put fuel on the top and clean out the ashes underneath. By the way, did you hear that? Did you? It doesn’t matter whether these people did, did you hear it? Did you hear it? – put fuel on the top, keep the ashes cleaned out underneath. Don’t you get in the delusion that because you’re going to the training college that the fire of faith will be burning all the time – you’ve got to put the fire on! You’ve got to put the fuel on! You’ve got to clean the ashes out! Didn’t somebody say a little time ago that the first cadet that’s always accepted in every session is Satan himself? And he’s already there. Sure. He’s waiting to _____. Sure is. The first thing you’ll see, you don’t need to put the fuel on anymore, you don’t need to clean the ashes out underneath anymore. Oh no. No. No. You watch out. And old man, writing to a young man about the God man. And he looks at them through the medium of that parchment, with eyes that were not very good, and he looks at young Timothy and he says, “You stir up the gift of God that is in thee. You stir it up. Keep the fuel on the top. Keep the ashes out underneath.” And I’ve seen scores of folks who look just like you where the fire’s burned low and the ashes have accumulated until there’s nothing left but a few smoking embers! And sometimes, there’s more smoke than embers. Now you can interpret that anyway you like, but that’s so, just the same. And I’ve watched it. I’ve watched it with folks who looked as nice as you do. And by the way my dear, you do look nice. You sure do. You sure do.

Would you mind if we just finished this. I don’t know what they’re going to do behind me here at the closing of this service here. But would you mind if I just sing you a little chorus just especially for you? These old folks back here, don’t matter about them, they can listen if they want to. And I’d like to sing a little chorus just for you, just for you. Now you will remember it because it’s been heard in training colleges before. The cadets in the Chicago Training College sang it over and over again, over and over again last semester. I don’t know whether it’s reached New York or not, that’s a little further away. You listen while I sing you a little chorus here, just for you. Then if you folks want to join in and sing, well that’s all right with me. I don’t mind at all. You listen. Give us the starting note Captain _____, please. It’s a little chorus called, “One Step At A Time,” and you’d better remember it and listen. This is the way it goes-

One step at a time,
 Only one step at a time,
 This is the way the Lord will lead you,

One step at a time,
 Take that one step carefully,
 Walk that one step prayerfully,
 This is the way of victory,
 One step at a time.

You think you could sing it with me? Could you? Try it. Try it. You're the kind of folks who can learn a chorus by just hearing it once. These old folks back here, it'll take them longer. If they want to join in, well that's all right with me. But, come on, you sing it along with me, will you? Come on now, I wouldn't be surprised if some of these folks join in singing it. All right, together-

One step at a time,
 Only one step at a time,
 This is the way the Lord will lead you,
 One step at a time,
 Take that one step carefully,
 Walk that one step prayerfully,
 This is the way of victory,
 One step at a time.

Sing it with us, everybody-

Repeating, rousingly.

I want you to do something you're not supposed to do on Sunday, you can do it any other day in the week, but you're not supposed to do it on Sunday. But this is such a happy moment, this Sunday afternoon, I'm going to ask you to do it anyhow. On that last line there, you can slur those last two notes. Now don't do it anytime on a Sunday except on occasion like this. You know what I mean there.

Singing the last line, with "slurring." (Laughter)

Take that last line, just the last line, please orchestra. All right, just the last line, please and come on down nicely on those last two notes, together –

All singing the last line, with "slurring."

Thank you so much, you're the nicest crowd I've seen since last Sunday and the nicest crowd I'm going to see until I'm with these fellows in Flint next Sunday.⁹ We're going to be with them in Flint next Sunday. Pray for us, will you? Thank you very much.

⁹ The band playing in the background is The Salvation Army Flint, Michigan Brass Sextette, who had been invited to lead the band music for this series of meetings. Flint is not far from Sidney Cox's then home of Detroit, and he was obviously going to appear at Salvation Army meetings in Flint the next Sunday.