

A Worship Minute ...

from The One Year Book of Hymns

Henry Lyte, author of *Abide With Me*, coined the phrase, “It is better to wear out than to rust out.” And Henry Lyte wore out when he was fifty-four years old, an obscure pastor who labored for twenty-three years in a poor church in a fishing village in Devonshire, England. This hymn, written shortly before his death, was inspired by the words of the two disciples met by Jesus on the road to Emmaus: “*Abide with us, (they said), for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent*”. (Luke 24: 29)

Note the fourth verse, which carries such hope for the Christian. As Lyte wrote this, he knew he was dying of tuberculosis and asthma. It was “*eventide*” for him, darkness was deepening, and he felt very much alone. But he was not alone, and we are not alone even in our darkest times. Our Lord is with us, “*the help of the helpless,*” the one who never changes, our guide and security. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days
of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.
Psalm 27: 1,4