

# church of Christ at Greenwood

371 West Main Street  
Greenwood, Indiana 46142  
317.888.8288  
churchofchristatgreenwood.org

August 25, 2024

## “Just As I Am”

Frank Himmel

The song “Just As I Am” is a commonly used invitation song. The idea in the song is that we cannot make ourselves right with God on our own; apart from Jesus’ blood we have no hope. That is precisely the New Testament picture (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; etc.).

I fear, however, that some folks have an erroneous idea about Jesus saving us “just as we are.” They seem to think that He saves us without any change in our conduct. That is opposite to the New Testament picture.

Jesus’ charge to the apostles was “*that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations*” (Luke 24:47). Forgiveness is extended to those willing to abandon sinful conduct, not to those who insist on continuing in it.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians, “*Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you...*” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). He did not say such **are** some of you, but such **were**. They changed their conduct in connection with being washed, sanctified, and justified (verse 11).

“Just as I am,” if referring to our own helplessness, is a comforting sentiment. But to suggest it means salvation without repentance is to hold out false hope.