

My Jesus, I Love Thee

William R. Featherstone · 1864 · Tune: Gordon (Adoniram J. Gordon)
Meter: 11.11.11.11

Verse 1

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Verse 2

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Verse 3

I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Verse 4

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

History

William Ralph Featherstone of Montreal wrote the words around 1864 at age 16, shortly after his conversion. He sent them to an aunt in Los Angeles, who had them published. Boston pastor A. J. Gordon (founder of Gordon College) discovered the verses and composed the present tune in 1876.

Scripture References (KJV)

1 John 4:19

We love him, because he first loved us.

John 21:17

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? ...Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.