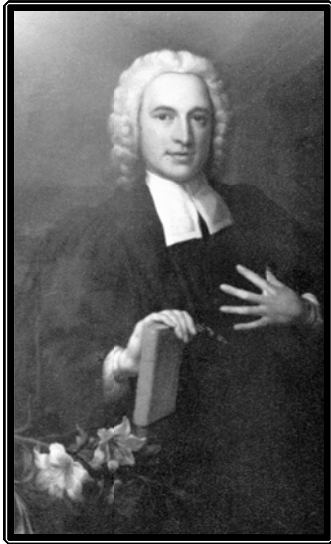


# AMAZING LOVE

Charles Wesley, Lyrics, 1738; Thomas Campbell, Music, 1825

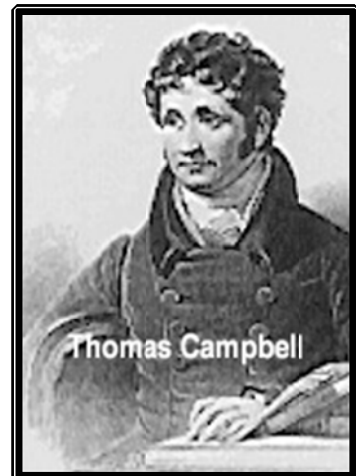
"Amazing Love" was written by Charles Wesley, cofounder of the Methodist movement, and originally entitled "*And Can It Be That I Should Gain?*"



Charles was ordained as a priest in the Church of England in 1735. However, three years later, the evening of May 21, 1738, he wrote in his journal, "*At midnight I gave myself to Christ, assured that I was safe, whether sleeping or waking. I had the continual experience of His power to overcome all temptation, and I confessed with joy and surprise that He was able to do exceedingly abundantly for me above what I can ask or think.*" Two days later, his journal reported that he had begun writing a hymn. Hymnologists feel it was likely "*And Can It Be*" because of the vivid testimony of stanza four. This hymn and "*Where Shall My Wondering Soul Begin*" were the first of the 6000 plus hymns that he wrote. It is reported that his brother John sang a hymn to the tune "*Crucifixion*" on

his own conversion to "vital religion" three days later. Although it was not stated what hymn it was, the "*Foundery Tune Book*", published by John Wesley in 1742, paired "*And Can It Be*" with "*Crucifixion*".

"*And Can It Be That I Should Gain*" was first published in John Wesley's "*Psalms and Hymns*" in 1738, then in "*Hymns and Sacred Poems*" in 1739. From the middle of the nineteenth century on, the tune "*Amazing Love*" is most commonly paired with is "*Sagina*", written by Thomas Campbell. He published this tune in a book of 23 hymn tunes called, "*Bouquet*" in 1825.



~ Tull