

Behind the Hymn: The Truth of God Is Greater Far

George Rawson (1807-1889), a solicitor (lawyer) from Leeds, England, wrote the hymn text, "We Limit Not the Truth of God". He based it on a 1620 farewell speech John Robinson made to the pilgrims departing on the Mayflower. Here is a portion of that address:

I charge you before God and His blessed angels that you follow me no further than you have seen me follow Christ. If God reveal anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as you were to receive any truth from my ministry, for I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth from His Holy Word.

I was moved by the unique importance of Rawson's hymn and saved it among other worthy hymns. It sat in my notebook for decades until 2010. In January I received an email from a relative who disagreed with something I had written and forcefully advocated for universalism. I am always reluctant to engage in theological disagreements, but I felt prompted by God do some scriptural research and send him a candid reply. I did so on February 15. To end my email on a conciliatory note, I quoted Rawson's hymn.

Quoting it there stirred my interest in it, and March 4 I completed my rewrite, "The Truth of God Is Greater Far".

--Ken Bible

Hymn: [The Truth of God Is Greater Far](#)