



**“Follow Me, and I will
make you fishers of
men.”**

Matthew 4:19

Kursi steep slope and Sea of Galilee

Our Scripture

- Jesus to Simon, Andrew (James & John):
- “Follow Me, and I will make you **fishers of men.**” (Matthew 4:19)
- “Follow Me, and I will make you become **fishers of men.**” (Mark 1:17)
- ““Do not fear, from now on **you will be catching men.**” (Luke 5:10)



Introduction

- Why did you obey the gospel?
- Why is that important?
- What change took place in your life?
- Is that change also important in the life of others?
- Could you explain why you felt it necessary to obey the gospel?
- Can you give a reason for the hope that is in you? (**1 Peter 3:15**)

- **There is a need to teach others also:**
- **John 4: 35** “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest...”
- **Luke 10:2** “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

A Change in Priorities Once Called

- Whatever life we may have led before we obeyed the Gospel, it should be different now.
- Our priorities and focus should be different.
- Simon, Andrew, James and John switched their focus from **earthly** to **spiritual**.
- “Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.” **(Matthew 4:22)**
- “they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.” **(Mark 1:20)**
- “When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.” **(Luke 5:11)**

Called Through The Gospel

- While Jesus has not hand picked us to walk with Him near the sea of Galilee, **we were called by His gospel to become like Him** in every respect that we can:
- “...**God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this **He called you through our gospel**” (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)
- **Luke 6:40** “A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.”
- Paul said to imitate him as he imitated Christ (**1 Corinthians 11:1**).

Called To Work

For Food Which Endures to Eternal Life

- Jesus said to work not “for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life...” (**John 6:27**)
- Our work on this earth still includes providing for our families (**1 Timothy 5:8**) and even Paul worked by tent making (**Acts 18:3**) to supply what lacked.

Called To Work

For Food Which Endures to Eternal Life

- Paul's focus was very much on the lost, so ours should first and foremost be on serving God faithfully and reaching the lost with the good news of the gospel.
- **Proverbs 11:30** "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls." NASB

Called To Work

For Food Which Endures to Eternal Life

- “For the Gospel to be efficiently and effectively spread by strategies beyond the pulpit, every Christian must become a **“fisher of men.”** (Charles Goodall - Evangelizing In The 21st Century)
- Paul compared the importance and role of individual members of the church to the human body (**Eph. 4:16**).
- Every joint and part is needed for the body to function.

Fisher's of Men

- Do we realize the need for each of us to participate in the spread of the Gospel?
- ***We need more fishers for Christ!***
- **Ephesians 4:11-16** “¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ...”

- **Ephesians 4:11-16** “¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *that is*, Christ, ¹⁶ from whom **the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part**, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” (NASB)

V16 ...whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part...

- **Each of us** have **different talents** and **abilities** but **all must do their part** in reaching and teaching the lost.
- There are no “vestigial” organs in the Body of Christ.

“In the 1800s, scientists like Charles Darwin and Robert Wiedersheim, noted several features as potential vestigial organs, including the appendix, tailbone, wisdom teeth, ear muscles, and certain muscles and bones.”

V16 ...whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part

- **Each of us** have **different talents** and **abilities** but **all must do their part** in reaching and teaching the lost.
- There are no “vestigial” organs in the Body of Christ.
- **Spectator** is not an **office** or **vocation** in the Church.
- There are not **performers** and ‘**audience members**’ in the Lord’s body!
(Remember: the proper **sitting** working of each individual part)
- We needed saving, every other soul on this earth needs saving...
- **Will you help?**

Will you help?

Who Should Fish?

- ***As to the fishermen...***
- We see no special gifts when Simon, Andrew, James & John were called (from and) to fishing.
- In fact it might be noted that they hadn't caught very much or at all, pretty poor fishermen in deed! Remember:
- *"Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." (Luke 5:5)*
- **Yet the Lord had use for them.**

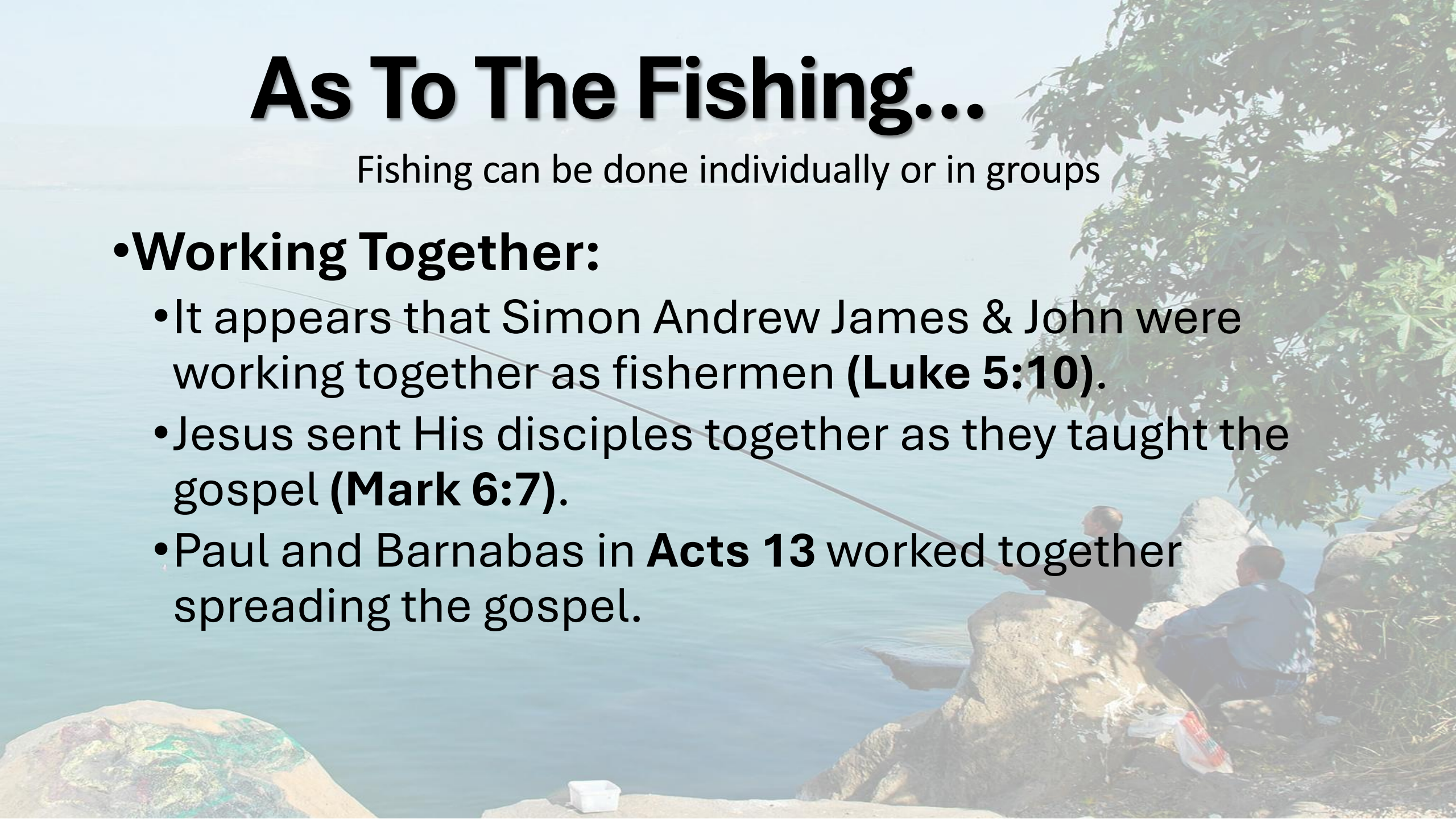


As To The Fishing...

Fishing can be done individually or in groups

- **Working Together:**

- It appears that Simon Andrew James & John were working together as fishermen (**Luke 5:10**).
- Jesus sent His disciples together as they taught the gospel (**Mark 6:7**).
- Paul and Barnabas in **Acts 13** worked together spreading the gospel.



As To The Fishing...

Fishing can be done individually or in groups

- **Working Individually:**

- Paul told Timothy *“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

(2 Timothy 2:2)

- As Christians, we should be fishing individually and looking for opportunities to work together to reach the lost with the Gospel.

As To The Fishing...

Fishing can be done individually or in groups

- **Remotely:** The Christians who supported the Apostle Paul were participating in preaching the gospel (**Philippians 1:4**).
 - One way we get to participate in the spreading of the gospel is through supporting preachers both here and abroad.
 - Yet that does not absolve our need to do what we can individually to reach the lost!

How Do We Catch Them?

- The spiritual net is the word of God. (**Romans 10:14-17**)
- “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (**Romans 10:17**)
- This is for all! We cast it far and wide, in the shallows from shore (**Matthew 4:18**) and in the deep (**Luke 5:4**)!
- ***Reach the fish where they are, which is hardly the shed or tackle shop. We must go to the fish!***



Does It Matter HOW We Catch Them?

We must trust that God's Word and His methods for reaching the fish are sufficient.

- **Romans 1:16** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” NASB
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” NASB
- ***Many a fisherman has tried to use different (unauthorized) methods or bait to catch fish.***



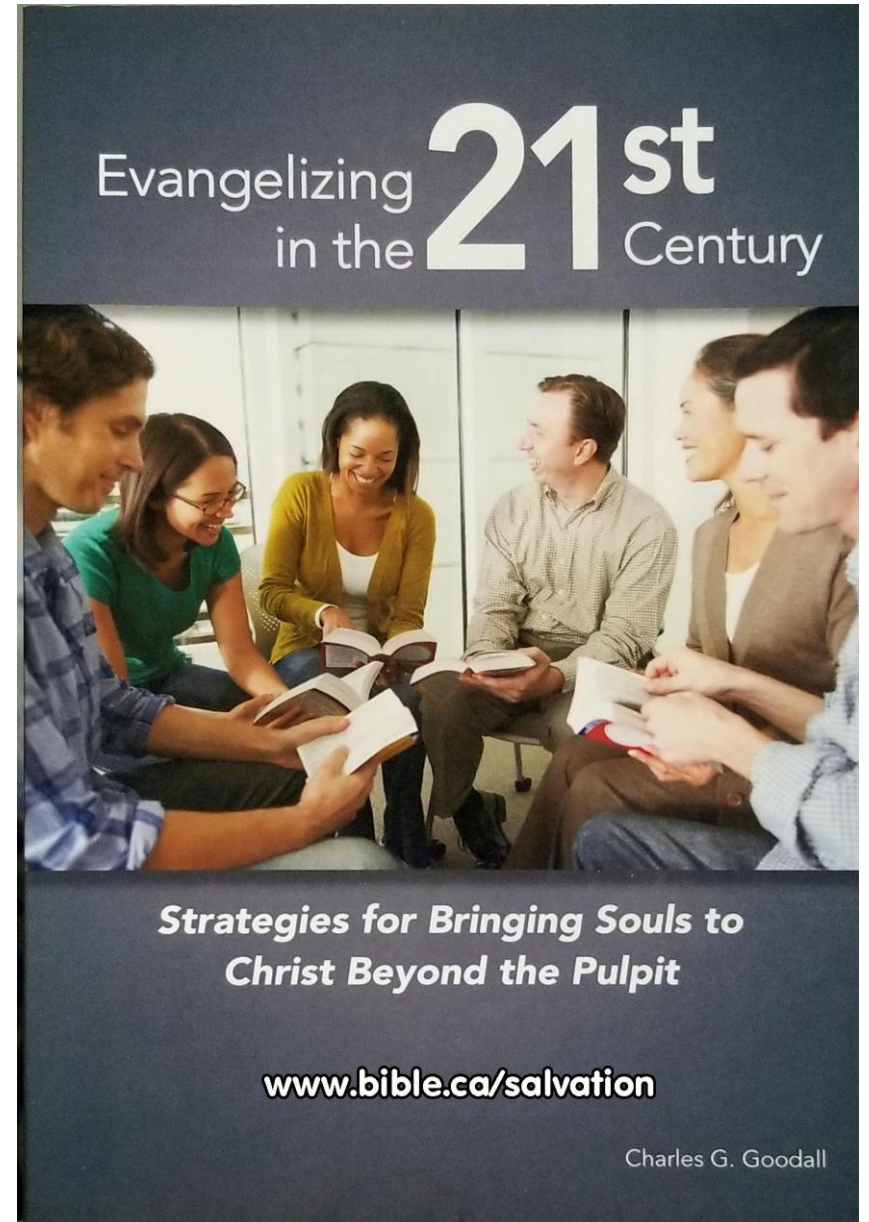
Does It Matter HOW We Catch Them?

- *Many a fisherman has tried to use different bait to catch different fish.*



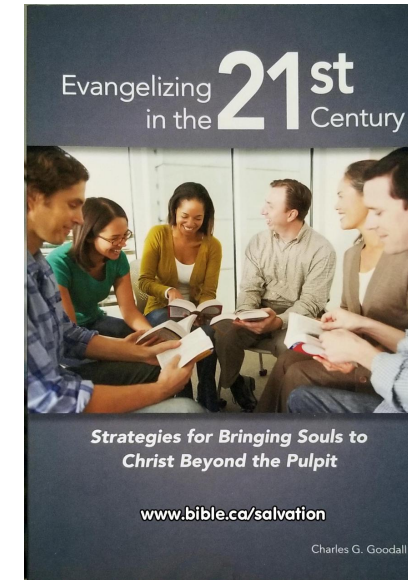
Evangelizing in the 21st Century

- *In speaking about personal evangelism, Charles Goodall reminded:* “One big change of perspective was the change in the desired product – the member. Jesus talked about fishing for men, so a fishing analogy is apropos. The target of one’s fishing determines the mode of fishing. One would use **chicken liver** and no float on the bottom of muddy water to catch a catfish. **A lure or a shiner** thrown among the lily pads of a pristine lake would be favorable to catching a bass. **Obviously it would be absurd to tell your friends you were going bass fishing with chicken liver and a heavy weight in a muddy lake.”**



The Type of Bait Determines the Type of Fish Caught!

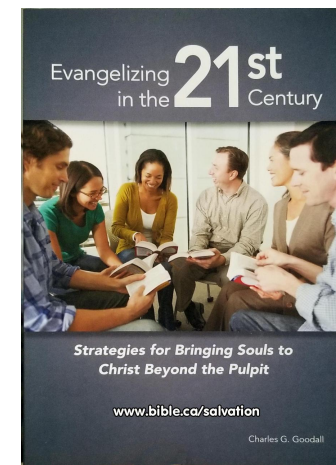
- *He then points out many churches try to reach the lost and ‘keep’ the saved using unscriptural methods:*
- “That is exactly the dilemma of our non-institutional brethren today who became convinced that they could get bass by bottom fishing. That is, they announced that they were interested in obtaining those identified with levels one and two but used levels three, four and five to lure them.”



Level Of Members Sought

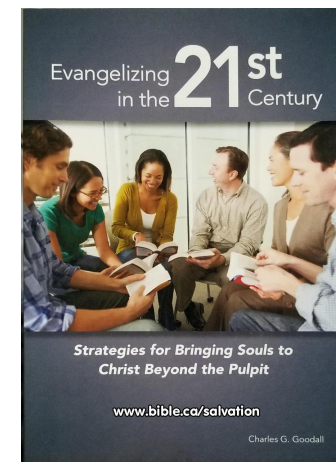
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|---------------|--|
| • Level One | • Highly Convicted -Faith of martyr |
| • Level Two | • Will respond to a distinct and unique plan but not at martyr level |
| • Level Three | • Accept a plan that seems to be the closest to the truth |
| • Level Four | • Want spiritual bonding, life enrichment but doctrine a secondary concern |
| • Level Five- | No doctrinal interest, seeking social opportunities, wanting to belong |

Observations on Human Mentality: Personal Evangelism in the 21st Century by Charles Goodall



- “As it has turned out, however, pulpit preaching has had its place and while in the past proved to be very effective in converting the lost, in recent years the number of those obeying the Gospel through that means has dwindled to such a degree that **many brethren have sought more productive methods.** I know a man who will face almost any personal discomfort for a fishing expedition. He will endure the cold, stand all day in the water, whip the stream, eat only a sandwich or two and come in with a pitiful catch, and still be the picture of enthusiasm....
(Continued)...

Observations on Human Mentality: Personal Evangelism in the 21st Century by Charles Goodall



- ‘...But “fishers of men” want everything favorable, and the fish placed on his line by some accommodating friend. Even then he is reluctant to pull him in.”
- “With all our education, our fine buildings, our image of the church, we are doing less to win people to Christ than our unschooled forefathers did.”
- “**We’re no longer fishers of men**, but **keepers of the aquarium**, and regretfully **we spend too much of our time swiping fish from each others’ tanks.**”

“We’re no longer fishers of men, but keepers of the aquarium, and regretfully we spend too much of our time swiping fish from each others’ tanks.”

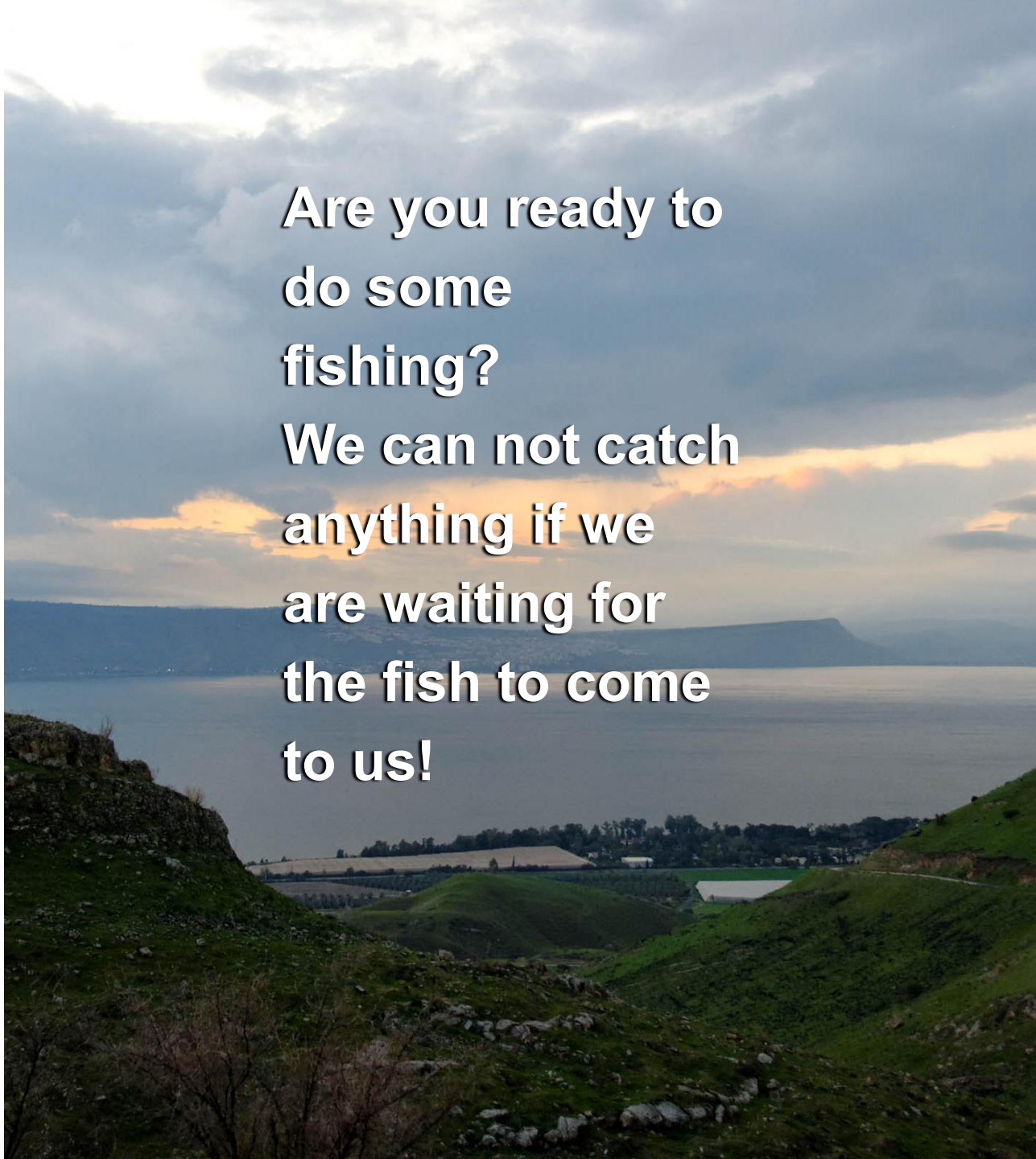
- Going to the fish supply store is not successful fishing!
- Also: Successful spiritual ‘fishing’ will not just be numbers we baptize...
- **Our job is to fish - preach the word** (*on the perfect lake? at the perfect hour? on the perfect tide?, in the perfect weather...?. ☺clearly not!*)
- “preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; (*high tide, low tide, good weather and bad*) reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.” **(2 Timothy 4:2).**
- And we must remember as we fish, it will be the Lord that gives the increase **(1 Corinthians 3:6).**
- **Sometimes success is just warning the wicked of the consequences** (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

What Will We Catch?

- **Jesus used a dragnet to describe the kingdom of Heaven:**
- **Matthew 13:47-50** “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Help Us Fish!

- **1 Timothy 4:16** “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.” NASB
- **2 Timothy 2:2** “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

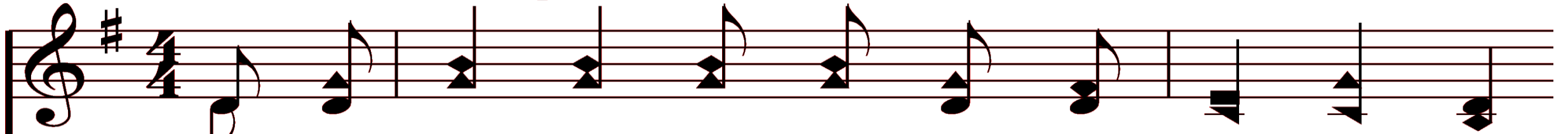


Are you ready to
do some
fishing?

We can not catch
anything if we
are waiting for
the fish to come
to us!

The Bible teaches that, to become a Christian, an individual must:

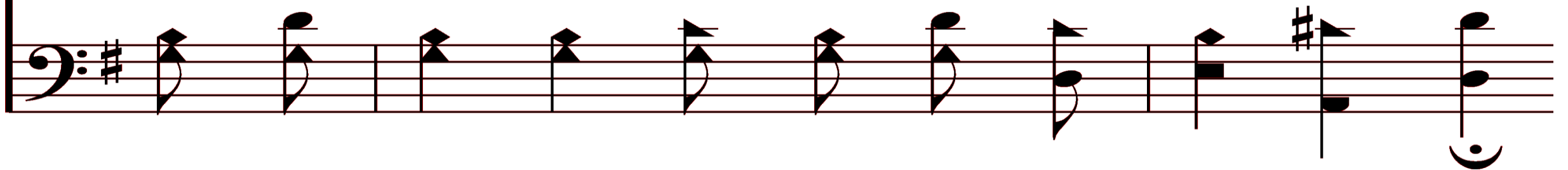
- **Hear** the word of God - **Matthew 13:3-9;17:1-5**
- **Believe** that Jesus is the Son of God - **John 3:16; Acts 16:31**
- **Repent** - **Luke 24:46-47; Acts 17:30**
- **Confess** faith - **Romans 10:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:12**
- **Be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins - **Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16**
- **The Goal - Walking in the Light:** “but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” **(1 John 1:7)**
- **“Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:20-21)**



1. Sing to me of heav-en, sing that song of peace,

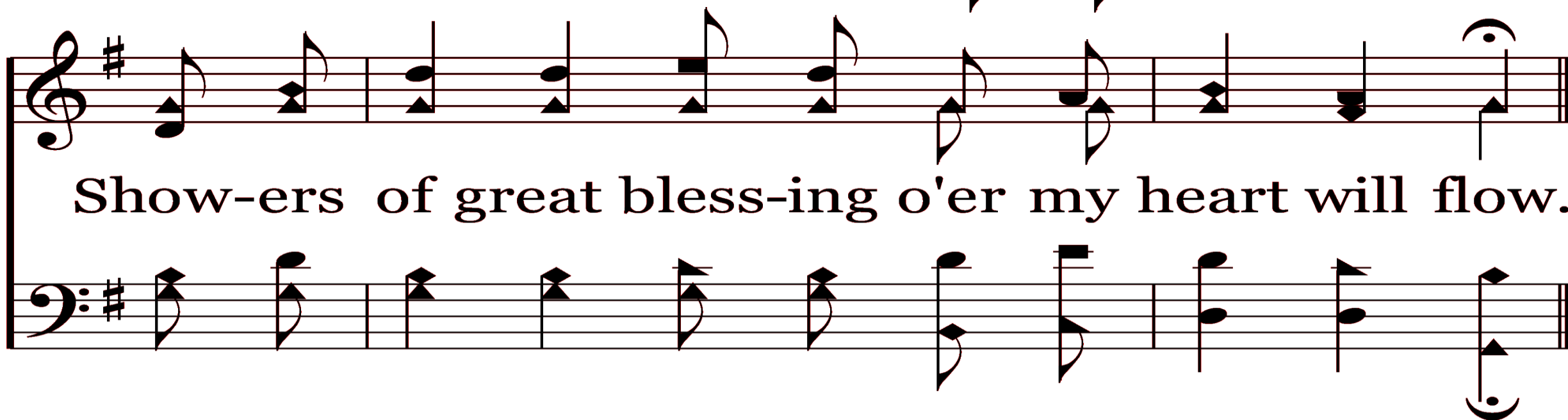


From the toils that bind me it will bring re-lease;





Bur-dens will be lift - ed that are press-ing so,



Show-ers of great bless-ing o'er my heart will flow.

Chorus

Sing to me of heav - en,
Sing to me of heav - en,
let me fond - ly dream
let me fond - ly dream

The image displays a musical score for two systems of vocal parts, likely SATB, in G major (one sharp). The first system contains two staves, each with a vocal line and lyrics. The second system also contains two staves with vocal lines and lyrics. The lyrics are: "Of its gold - en glo - ry," and "Of its gold - en glo - ry," for the first system, and "of its pearl - y gleam;" and "Of its pearl - y gleam;" for the second system. The musical notation includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are written in a large, black, serif font, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The first system's lyrics are: "Of its gold - en glo - ry," and "Of its gold - en glo - ry,". The second system's lyrics are: "of its pearl - y gleam;" and "Of its pearl - y gleam;".

Of its gold - en glo - ry,
Of its gold - en glo - ry,

of its pearl - y gleam;
Of its pearl - y gleam;

Sing to me when shad - ows
Sing to me when shad - ows

of the eve - ning fall,
Of the eve - ning fall,

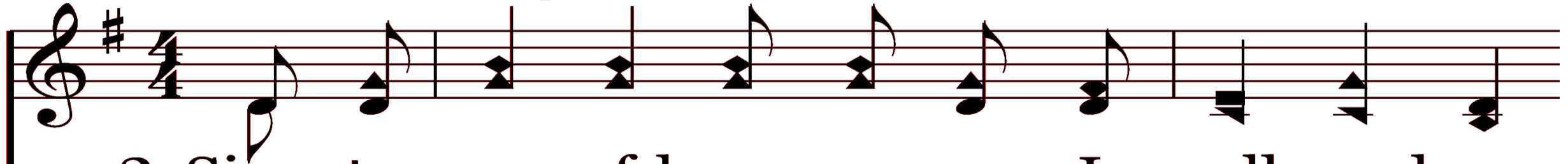
Sing to me of heav - en,
Sing to me of heav - en,

Sweet - est song of all.
Sing the sweet - est song of all.

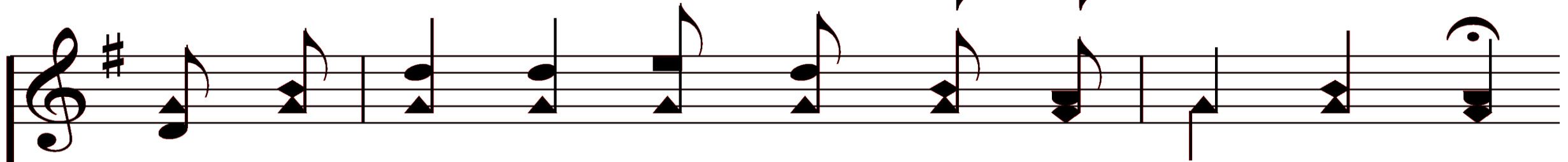
End of Verse 1

Sing to Me of Heaven

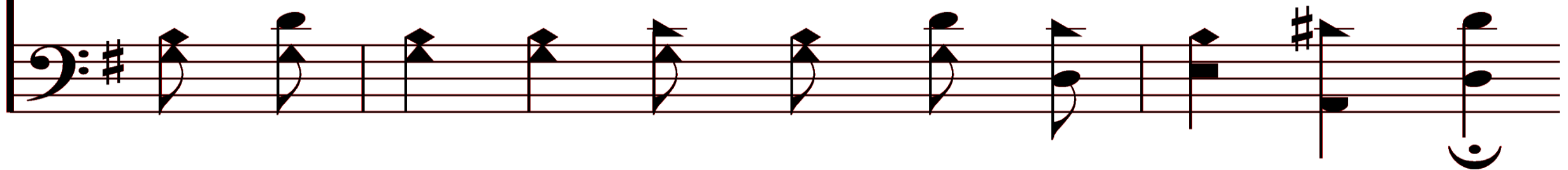
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2. Sing to me of heav-en, as I walk a-lone,



Dream-ing of the com-rades that so long have gone;





The image displays a musical score for a two-part setting of a hymn, written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score is presented on four staves, with the first two staves forming the first system and the last two staves forming the second system. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staves. The first system of music corresponds to the lyrics "In a fair-er re-gion, 'mong the an-gel throng," and the second system corresponds to "They are hap-py as they sing that old, sweet song." The melody in the treble part is characterized by eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass part provides a steady accompaniment with quarter and eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the final note of the second system.

In a fair-er re-gion, 'mong the an-gel throng,

They are hap-py as they sing that old, sweet song.

Chorus

Sing to me of heav - en,
Sing to me of heav - en,
let me fond - ly dream
let me fond - ly dream

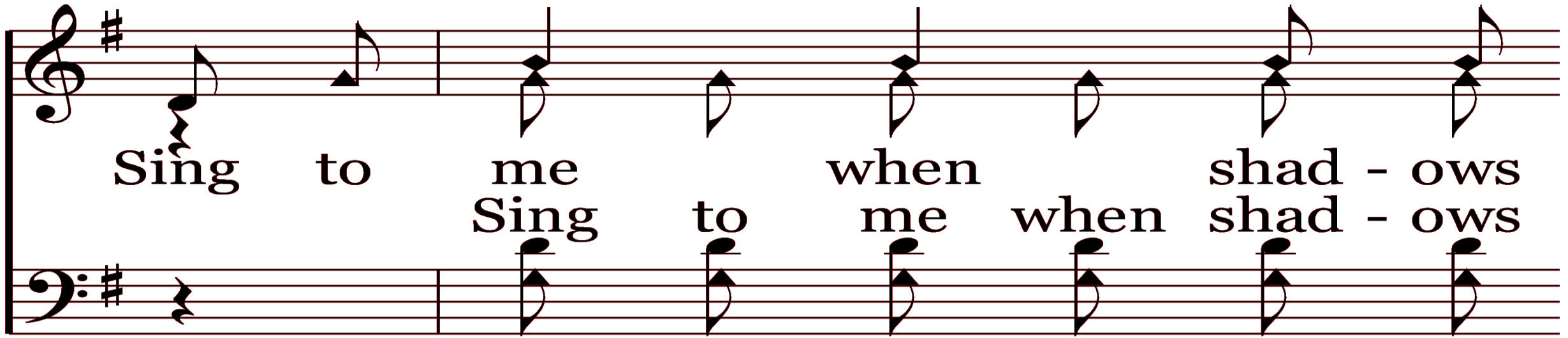
The image displays a musical score for two systems of vocal parts, likely SATB, in the key of G major (one sharp). The notation is presented on four staves, with the top two staves of each system sharing a common vocal line and the bottom two staves sharing another. The lyrics are written below the notes.

System 1:

- Top Staff (Soprano/Alto):** Treble clef, G major key signature. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter).
- Bottom Staff (Tenor/Bass):** Bass clef, G major key signature. Notes: G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter).
- Lyrics:**
Of its gold - en glo - ry,
Of its gold - en glo - ry,

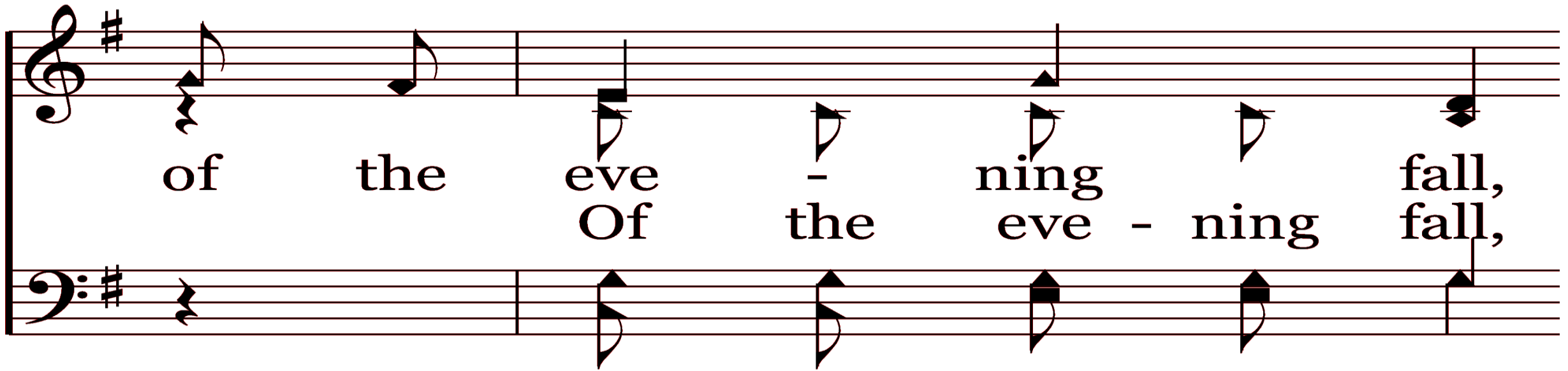
System 2:

- Top Staff (Soprano/Alto):** Treble clef, G major key signature. Notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter).
- Bottom Staff (Tenor/Bass):** Bass clef, G major key signature. Notes: G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter).
- Lyrics:**
of its pearl - y gleam;
Of its pearl - y gleam;



Sing to me when shad - ows
Sing to me when shad - ows

The first system of a musical score in G major (one sharp). It consists of a vocal melody on a treble clef staff and a bass line on a bass clef staff. The vocal melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bass line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. The lyrics "Sing to me when shad - ows" are written below the vocal staff, with "Sing" and "to" aligned under the first two notes, "me" under the third, and "when shad - ows" under the next four notes. The second line of the system repeats the same melody and bass line with the same lyrics.



of the eve - ning fall,
Of the eve - ning fall,

The second system of the musical score continues the melody and bass line. The vocal melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bass line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3. The lyrics "of the eve - ning fall," are written below the vocal staff, with "of" and "the" aligned under the first two notes, "eve - ning" under the next two, and "fall," under the final note. The second line of the system repeats the same melody and bass line with the same lyrics.

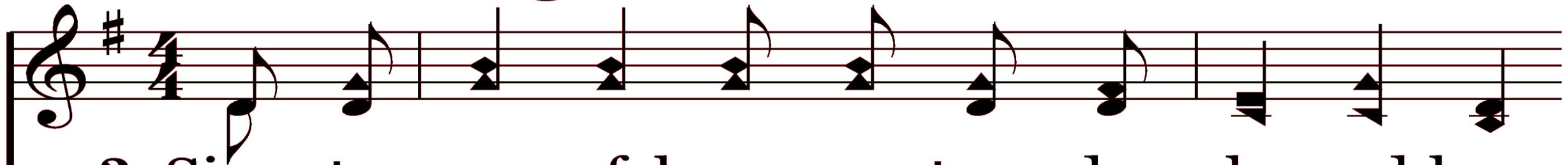
Sing to me of heav - en,
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Sweet - est song of all.
Sing the sweet - est song of all.

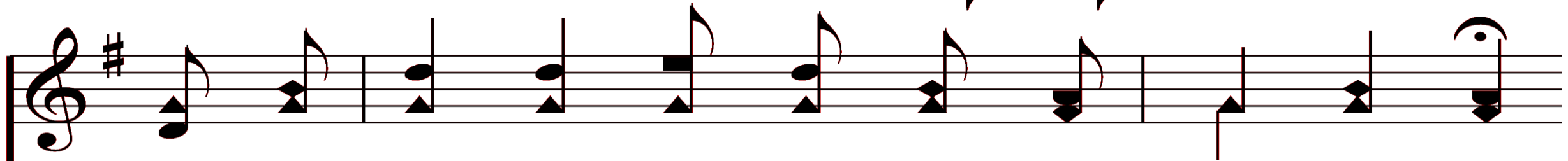
End of Verse 2

Sing to Me of Heaven

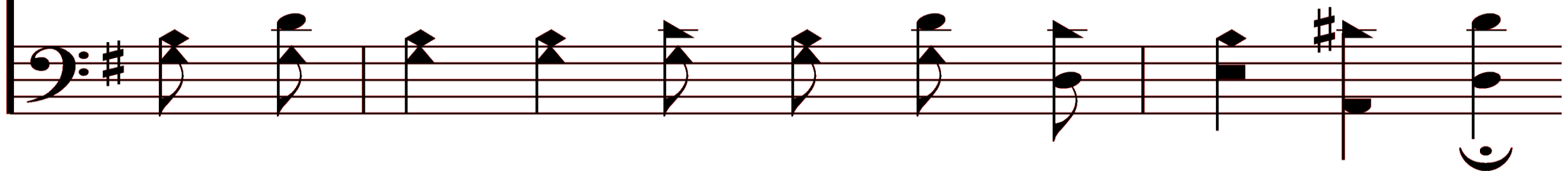
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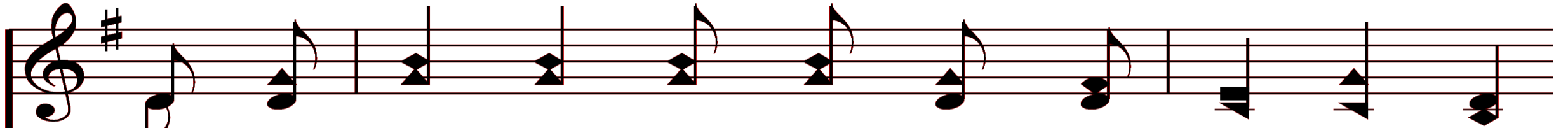


3. Sing to me of heav-en, ten-der-ly and low,

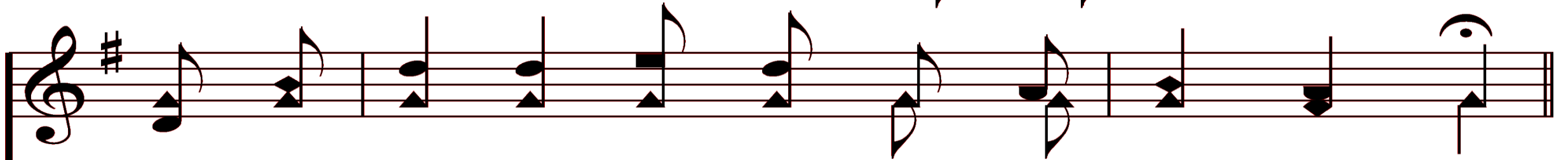
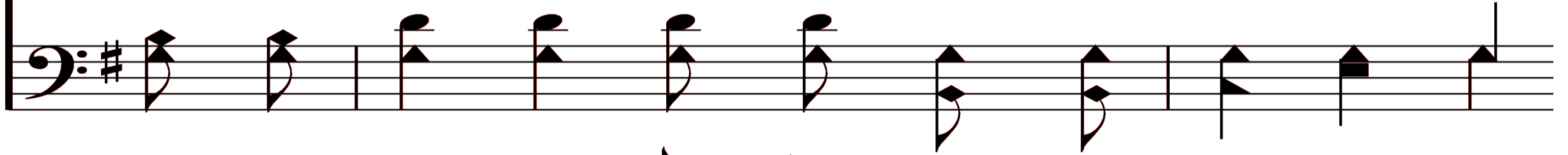


Till the shad-ows o'er me rise and swift-ly go;

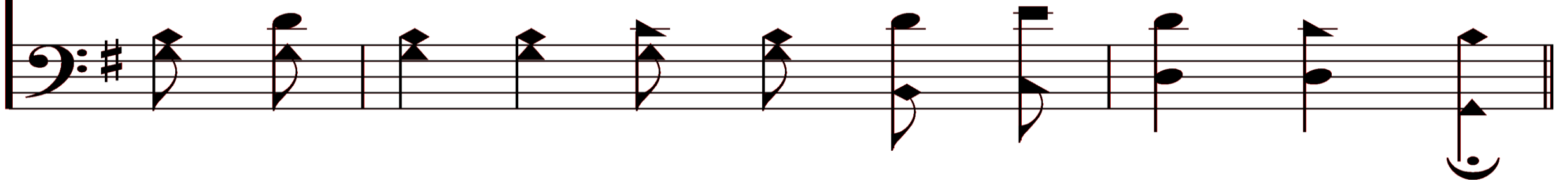




When my heart is wea - ry, when the day is long,



Sing to me of heav-en, sing that old, sweet song.



Chorus

Sing to me of heav - en,
Sing to me of heav - en,
let me fond - ly dream
let me fond - ly dream

The image displays a musical score for two systems of vocal parts, likely SATB, in the key of G major (one sharp). The notation is presented on four staves, with the top two staves of each system sharing a common vocal line and the bottom two staves sharing another. The lyrics are written below the notes.

System 1:

Top vocal line: Of its gold - en glo - ry,
Bottom vocal line: Of its gold - en glo - ry,

System 2:

Top vocal line: of its pearl - y gleam;
Bottom vocal line: Of its pearl - y gleam;

The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are set in a formal, serif typeface.

Sing to me when shad - ows
Sing to me when shad - ows

of the eve - ning fall,
Of the eve - ning fall,

Sing to me of heav - en,
Sing to me of heav - en,

Sweet - est song of all.
Sing the sweet - est song of all.

End of Song

