

WE'LL UNDERSTAND IT BETTER BYE AND BYE

Gospel Song by Charles A. Tindley; **DATE:** Ca. 1905; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Frank and James McCravy-1927; Kentucky Mountain Choristers; Morris Brothers and Homer Sherrill-1938; Pinder Family & Joseph Spence; Preservation Hall Jazz Band; **OTHER NAMES:** We'll Understand it Better; **NOTES:** Charles Tindley 1851-1933, is known as one of the "founding fathers of American Gospel music." The son of slaves, he taught himself to read and write at age 17. In 1902, he became pastor of the Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Tindley's "I'll Overcome Some Day" was the basis for the American civil rights anthem "We Shall Overcome," popularized in the 1960's.

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a G chord above it. The second staff has A and D chords above it. The third staff has C, G, D, and G chords above it. The fourth staff is labeled 'Chorus' and has C, G, A, and D chords above it. The fifth staff has G, C, G, D, and G chords above it.

We are tossed and driven on the rest less sea of time, Som - ber
 skies and how - ling tem - est oft suc - ceed a bright sun - shine, In that land of per - fect day, when the
 mists have rolled a - way, We will un - der - stand it bet - ter bye and bye
Chorus
 Bye and bye, when the morn - ing comes, All the saints of God are gath - ered home, We'll
 tell the sto - ry how we've o - ver - come, For we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter bye and bye.

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We are tossed and driven on the restless sea of time;

Somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine;

In that land of perfect day, when the mists are rolled away, We will understand it better bye and bye.

Chorus: Bye and bye, when the morning comes, When the saints of God are gathered home,

We'll tell the story how we've overcome, for we'll understand it better bye and bye.

We are often destitute of the things that life demands,
 Want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands;
 We are trusting in the Lord, and according to God's word, We will understand it better bye and bye. *Chorus*

Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand
 All the ways of God would lead us to that blessed promised land;
 But he guides us with his eye, and we'll follow till we die, for we'll understand it better bye and bye. *Chorus*

Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares,
 And our hearts are made to bleed for a thoughtless word or deed;
 And we wonder why the test when we try to do our best, But we'll understand it better bye and bye. *Chorus*