

# Care for thy soul

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius  
 Medius  
*The first singing part*  
 Contratenor  
 Tenor  
 Bassus

Care for thy soul as thing of great - est price, care  
 Care  
 Care for thy soul as thing of great - est price, care  
 Care for thy soul as thing of great - est price, care  
 Care for thy soul as thing of great - est price, care

for thy soul as thing of great - est price, made to the end to  
 for thy soul as thing of great - est price, made to the  
 for thy soul as thing of great - est price, made to the end  
 for thy soul, for thy soul, as thing of great - est price, made to the end to taste  
 for thy soul as thing of great - est price, of great - est price, made to the

10

taste of power di - vine, di - vine, of power di - vine, de - void of  
 end to taste of power di - vine, de - void of guilt, ab -  
 to taste of power di - vine, de - void of guilt, of guilt,  
 of power di - vine, of power di - vine, di - vine, de - void of guilt,  
 end to taste of power di - vine, de - void of guilt, ab - hor - ring

guilt, ab-hor-ring sin and vice, apt by God's grace to vir-tue to in -  
 -hor-ring sin and vice, apt by God's grace to vir-tue to in -  
 ab-hor-ring sin and vice, apt by God's grace to vir-tue to in -  
 - ab-hor-ring sin and vice, apt by God's grace to vir-tue to in -  
 sin and vice, sin and vice, apt by God's grace to vir-tue to in -

20

-cline, to in-cline, care for it so, as by thy retch-less  
 -cline, care for it so, as by thy retch-less  
 -cline, to in-cline, care for it so, as by thy retch-less  
 -cline, to in-cline, care for it so, as by thy  
 -cline, to in-cline, care for it so, as by thy retch-less

train, it be not brought to taste, e-ter-nal  
 train, it be not brought to taste, to taste e-ter-nal  
 train, it be not brought to taste e-ter-nal pain, to taste e-ter-nal  
 -retch-less train, it be not brought to taste e-ter-nal  
 train, thy retch-less train, it be not brought to taste e-ter-nal

pain. Care for it so, as by thy retch - less  
 pain. Care for it so, as by thy retch - less  
 pain. Care so, as by thy retch - less train, thy retch-less  
 pain. Care for it so, as by thy  
 pain. Care for it so, as by thy retch - less

train, it be not brought to taste e - ter - - - nal pain.  
 train, it be not brought to taste, to taste e - ter - nal pain.  
 train, it be not brought to taste e - ter - nal pain, to taste e - ter - nal pain.  
 - retch - less train, it be not brought to taste e - ter - nal pain.  
 train, thy retch - less train, it be not brought to taste e - ter - nal pain.

1. Care for thy soule as thing of greatest price,  
made to the end to tast of power devine,  
devoide of guilt, abhorring sinne and vice,  
apt by Gods grace to vertue to encline,  
care for it so, as by thy retchlesse traine,  
it bee not brought to tast eternall paine.
2. Care for thy corps, but chiefly for soules sake  
cut of excesse, sustaining food is best,  
to vanquish pride, but comely clothing take,  
seeke after skill, deep ignorance detest:  
Care so I say, the flesh to feed and cloth,  
that thou harme not thy soule & body both.
3. Care for the world to do thy body right,  
rack not thy wit to win by wicked waies,  
seek not t'opresse the weak by wrongfull might,  
to pay thy due do banish all delaies:  
Care to dispend according to thy store,  
and in like sort be mindfull of the poore.
4. Care for thy soule, as for thy chieftest stay,  
care for thy bodie for the soules availle,  
care for the world for bodies help alway,  
care yet but so as vertue may prevaile,  
care in such sort that thou be sure of this,  
care keep thee not from heaven & heavenly blis.

Source: William Byrd, *Psalmes, Sonets, & songs of sadnes and pietie* (London, 1588), no.31.

Part of my complete edition of the published vocal works of William Byrd made available through the Choral Public Domain Library (<http://www.cpd.org>). For general editorial notes, please visit my user page at <http://www.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/User:DaveF>. All scores are made freely available according to the CPDL Licence for downloading, printing, performing and recording. No further conditions are or can be attached, although it's always good to hear of any performances. Please do not, without consulting me, make copies of my scores available through other websites – there's no need, first of all, as CPDL is always here, and secondly by doing so you put these editions beyond my control and so will miss out on any updates and revisions.