

A WORD ON WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 10, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mark 12:29-32

“Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”



Let us be very clear: our love for God is a response to God's love for us. So when did Christians decide our love would be like tithing? Some may reason: *As long as I love 10% of the time, I must be in God's good graces.* Yet we are overwhelmed by God's infinite grace that does not save us by fractions, but we are still sadly surprised that God is not satisfied with a mere fraction of ourselves. The command given to Israel is the command given to every Christian: give your entire life to the personal God who first loved us by sending His Son as an offering for our sin.

The heart is more than just our bodily pumping station. The heart is where our decisions are made, plans are evaluated and the calculations of our lives are weighed in the balance. We may agree with something in our mind and speak about it with our lips, but that is not where the decision is made. It is in the heart, not the mind, where we decide for or against God and expose our true loyalties. The people perceived the scribes to be models of those who loved God, but Jesus examined their hearts to unveil the object of their true love: themselves.

Our soul is the vitality and motivating power of our lives. Together, with the heart, the soul determines how we will conduct ourselves in our daily walk. To love God with all of our soul will focus our energy on pursuing God's purposes no matter the response from those around us as we are consumed to proclaim the gospel and fight the good fight. The mind is what directs our opinions and judgments. Our love for God must be more than an emotional response, but a demonstration to all that we “know why” instead of trying to impress others with our “know how.” Our strength is all that we possess while we walk this earth. Yes, it is the physical demonstration of love by what we do, but it is also the leverage for the work of love that our possession can do. The widow who gives her last mite provides the best example of this love.

The sum of what Jesus is saying is our love for God needs to be every part of our being: heart, soul, mind and strength. We are not to offer God only a tithe of ourselves while we somehow hoard and squander the rest on our own shallow purposes. We sing about how the world will know we are Christians by our love, but love of God is how we are known by God.†“*But if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.*” (1 Corinthians 8:3)

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

9642 Live Oak Ave. • Temple City, CA 91780
(626) 287-6120 • PastorAndy@SunriseTC.org • www.SunriseTC.org

FEBRUARY 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	1	2



What's Happening at Sunrise February 2013

Feb. 13		Ash Wednesday
Feb. 14		Valentine's Day
Feb. 15	7:00 p.m.	Game Night
Feb. 17	8:45 a.m.	Mark 12:38 to 44 <i>When Less is More</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Annual Meeting followed by Pot Luck
Feb. 19	7:00 PM	Bible Study in Galatians
Feb. 22		Camellia Festival
Feb. 23		Camellia Festival
Feb. 24	8:45 a.m.	Mark 13 verses 1 to 13 <i>Temple Talks</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School Camellia Festival



Syrian Christians under siege need prayer

WWW.CHRISTIANPOST.COM

Harsh facts of the bloody civil war raging in Syria for almost two years:

- The United Nations reported in early January that more than 60,000 people have been killed in the conflict, including Syrian President Bashar al-Assad troops, the Free Syria Army (rebel forces) and innocent civilians. One rebel agency says that total includes more than 3,500 children, but that is not confirmed by the U.N.

- As of Jan. 2, more than 1.2 million Syrians have been displaced within the country, according to the U.N.

- The U.N. High Commission for Refugees reports approximately 700,000 Syrians have fled the country

into places such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. The pace of those leaving has increased rapidly. The Associated Press reported last week a wave of 21,000 Syrians moved into already crowded, often dangerous camps in northern Jordan.

- Four million Syrians inside the country need food, shelter and other aid, according to the U.N.

But how about the faces behind these statistics? The grief, the tears, the broken hearts of those who are mourning dead, missing or fleeing family members. And physically, the lack of food, shelter and clothing in the cold weather of winter, both inside Syria and in the refugee camps outside the country.

Yes, another "Arab Winter," both literally and figuratively.



Invite a Neighbor to Church

It's Camellia Festival Time Please Sign up to work the Sunrise booth

Please clip and leave in collection plate

Check day/date volunteered

Friday, Feb. 22, 4-10 p.m. 2-hour blocks beginning at 3:30, 6 and 8

Saturday, Feb. 23, 12-10 p.m. 2-hour blocks 11:30, 2, 4, 6 and 8

Sunday, Feb. 24, 12-8 p.m. 2-hour blocks 11:30, 2, 4 and 6

Name _____

Time slot(s) _____

Phone _____

Have you connected to the WEB SITE lately? www.SunriseTC.org