

A WORD ON WORSHIP

MARCH 3, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mark 13:21-23

“And then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ’; or, ‘Behold, He is there’; do not believe him; for false Christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. “But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.”



Mark wrote his gospel at a time when the world appeared to many to be falling apart, especially if you were a Jewish Christian. Tacitus, the Roman historian of the first century, documented three civil wars, the assassination of four emperors, numerous earthquakes and natural disasters all of which took place after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The warnings of Jesus in our passage provide a guide for the saints of every generation to make sense of what has happened and will happen in the course of human history.

Many are fascinated with what Jesus said about the last days. The Olivet Discourse has all the elements of a great action movie: the tension of the saint’s persecution by those who hold earthly power set against the working of the Holy Spirit and the coming of Jesus to gather His own, complete with cosmic fireworks. A series of sermons on the Great Tribulation and the identity of the Antichrist will usually draw far more interest from people than the ethical demands of the Sermon on the Mount. And while some view our passage as a litmus test on certain views of the end, I think Mark 13 was intended to turn down the flame on apocalyptic fever because the passage contains far more puzzles than answers.

Mark’s message is far more subtle than fill in the blank answers for our “end of time” charts. Mark’s message for the saints of every generation, from first to last, is: God’s way, God’s Messiah and God’s people will be vindicated in such a conclusive way that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is the Christ to the glory of God. We should not be ignorant of the last days, but God has made it clear that we are to learn to cope with the last days.

The question for us to answer is how shall we live in such difficult times, with the persecutions, suffering and trials as we wait for the blessed return of our Lord and Savior? The drama of the last days will play out according to God’s plan, scene by scene. The actors on the stage can estimate where they are in the play, but only the stage director knows exactly where they are. He has given the actors instructions on what they are to do and what they are to say as they see certain events and cues take place. The actors know how the play will end, but they still do not know when the curtain will fall.

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

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MARCH 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
24	25	26	27	28	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	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

What's Happening at Sunrise March 2013



Join the Flock at Sunday School!



Invite a Neighbor to Church

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|---------|------------|--|
| Mar. 3 | 8: 45 a.m. | Mark 13: 14-23
<i>The Abominations that Cause Desolation</i> |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Sunday School |
| Mar. 5 | | No Bible Study – Pastor Andy Late Week |
| Mar. 8 | 6:30 p.m. | Friday Night Fellowship |
| Mar. 9 | 1:00 p.m. | Mildred Long's 100 th Birthday Celebration |
| Mar. 10 | 8:45 a.m. | Mark13: 24-37
<i>The Dark Side of the Second Coming</i> |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Corporate Prayer during 2 nd Hour |
| Mar. 12 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study in Galatians |
| Mar. 15 | 7:00 p.m. | Game Night in the Sanctuary |
| Mar. 17 | 8:45 a.m. | Mark 14: 1-11
<i>Working Like the Devil to Serve the Lord</i> |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Second Hour |
| Mar. 19 | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study in Galatians |
| Mar. 22 | 6:30 p.m. | Friday Night Fellowship |
| Mar. 24 | 8:45 a.m. | Sunday Service |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Second Hour |
| Mar. 25 | 7:00 p.m. | Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Listening |
| Mar. 26 | 7:00 p.m. | Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Listening |
| Mar. 27 | 7:00 p.m. | Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Listening |
| Mar. 28 | 7:00 p.m. | Westminster Maundy Thursday Services |
| Mar. 29 | 6:00 p.m. | Sunrise Good Friday Services |
| Mar. 31 | 8:45 a.m. | Resurrection Sunday Services |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Community Pot Luck Brunch |

Dozens of Egyptian Christians arrested in Libya charged with proselytizing

The arrests were reported by the Facebook page "Yes to Secularism in Libya," where a video was uploaded showing a group of Coptic Christians crowded into a room, after having their heads shaved by authorities.

In the video a Salafi man accuses them of proselytizing and shows religious images allegedly created by the Copts.

It is not known whether these images were taken from their homes or where they came from.

One Coptic businessman said, "These young men have been tortured. They are Egyptians working in Libya, but they have been detained in a warehouse somewhere in Benghazi."

Recently, Libyan authorities have made a number of arrests, including that of four foreigners, under accusations of proselytization. The large majority of the population in Libya is Sunni Muslim.

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