

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM FEBRUARY 2, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Judges 8:33-35

“Then it came about, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the sons of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-berith their god. Thus the sons of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side; nor did they show kindness to the household of Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) in accord with all the good that he had done to Israel.”



†Before we are told of the evils of Abimelech and of leaders of Shechem, we first are told of the evils of the Israelites, evils which were the reason for God’s judgment upon the nation. This is a judgment that came from within, rather than from without. It was Gideon who created the ephod which the Israelites worshipped. But as bad as this worship of the ephod was during Gideon’s lifetime, we see things went from bad to worse when Gideon died.

But upon Gideon’s death, the Israelites plunged “full speed ahead” into their idolatry. We are told that “they made Baal-Berith their god.” †We are very familiar with the term Baal, but the expression “Baal-Berith” †is new to us. In the Hebrew text, the term “Berith” †means “covenant,” and so the Israelites made “Baal-Berith” †their god. Or perhaps we should say the Israelites entered into a “new covenant” – not the Mosaic Covenant, and most certainly not the “New Covenant” †of the New Testament – but a covenant with Baal as their new god. The Israelites are not worshipping the God of Israel †and also some Canaanite god; they are worshipping a Canaanite god as their only god. They have rejected their covenant with God and have entered into a new covenant with a heathen god, exactly what God had warned them not to do.

Many Christians today, including me, bemoan the fact that our government has become more and more corrupt, so that people of both political parties have become cynical about the motives and actions of politicians. Can anyone deny the decline in morality and justice in government which has been increasing at an alarming rate in recent days? Homosexuality is not merely tolerated by our highest officials; it is praised as something good. Abortions – most of which are really murder – are accepted, praised, encouraged and all too often financed by our government. Our passage in Judges declares to us that our government, corrupt as it is, is precisely what we deserve. God has given the people of our country what many have wanted, as well as what we deserve.

How tragic it is to see that the people of Shechem put their faith in the wrong person. First they trusted in Abimelech, and soon they will trust in Gaal. There is only One who can deliver Israel and us today, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is worthy of our trust and of our praise and looking elsewhere for deliverance will only lead to our destruction. May we pay attention to what is happening in our lifetime and turn to the Lord Jesus.

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

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(626) 287-6120 • PastorAndy@SunriseTC.org • www.SunriseTC.org

The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

<http://www.hymntime.com/>

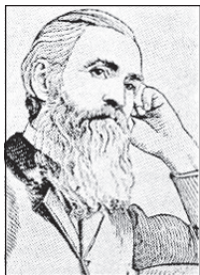
In the Sweet By and By

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/i/n/t/intsbab.htm>

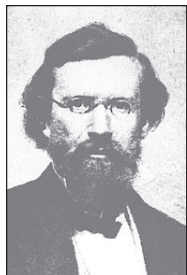
Tune: http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/s/w/e/sweet_by_and_by.mid

“In My Father’s house there are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.”

John 14:2



Sanford F. Bennett
(1836-1898)



Joseph P. Webster
(1819-1875)

Words: Sanford F. Bennett, 1868 **Music:** Sweet By and By, Joseph P. Webster
Mr. Webster, like many musicians, was of an exceedingly nervous and sensitive nature, and subject to periods of depression, in which he looked upon the dark side of all things in life. I had learned his peculiarities so well that on meeting him I could tell at a glance if he was melancholy, and had found that I could rouse him up by giving him a new song to work on.

He came into my place of business [in Elkhorn, Wisconsin], walked down to the stove, and turned his back on me without speaking. I was at my desk. Turning to him, I said, “Webster, what is the matter now?” “It’s no matter,” he replied, “it will be all right by and by.” The idea of the hymn came me like a flash of sunlight, and I replied, “The Sweet By and By! Why would not that make a good hymn?” “Maybe it would,” he said indifferently. Turning to my desk I penned the words of the hymn as fast as I could write. I handed the words to Webster. As he read his eyes kindled, and stepping to the desk he began writing the notes. Taking his violin, he played the melody and then jotted down the notes of the chorus. It was not over thirty minutes from the time I took my pen to write the words before two friends with Webster and myself were singing the hymn.

– Sanford Fillmore Bennett (1836-1898)

There’s a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

Refrain

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

Refrain

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

Refrain

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

February 2014

FEBRUARY 2014											
S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
26	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					

- Feb. 2 8:45 a.m. Resuming Judges Series: Judges 8:33 to 9:21
When God’s Judgment is the Government
10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- Feb. 4 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Ephesians; at Kikkert’s home
- Feb. 7 7:00 p.m. Game Night
- Feb. 9 8:45 a.m. Judges 9:22 to 57: *You Get What You Paid For*
10:30 a.m. Sunrise Annual Meeting and Potluck
- Feb. 11 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Ephesians; at Kikkert’s home
- Feb. 14 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship Valentine Style
- Feb. 16 8:45 a.m. Judges 10:1 to 12:15:
Jephthah: Now Why Did I Say That?
10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- Feb. 18 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Ephesians; at Kikkert’s home
- Feb. 21 Camellia Festival – Temple City Park
- Feb. 22 Camellia Festival and Parade – T.C. Park
- Feb. 23 8:45 a.m. Judges 13:1 to 25: *Sampson’s Silver Spoon*
10:30 a.m. Pastor Andy Teaching at
Westminster Presbyterian Church
How Are We Supposed to Get it All Done?
The Nature of Spiritual Gifts
12 Noon Camellia Festival- Temple City Park
- Feb. 25 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Ephesians; at Kikkert’s home
- Feb. 28 7:00 p.m. Game Night

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. 21, 4-11 p.m. 2-hour blocks beginning at 3:30, 6 and 8
- Saturday, Feb. 22, 12-11 p.m. 2-hour blocks 11:30, 2, 4, 6 and 8
- Sunday, Feb. 23, 12-8 p.m. 2-hour blocks 11:30, 2, 4 and 6

Name _____

Time slot(s) _____

Phone _____