

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM APRIL 13, 2014

BY ELDER KEN MCAULEY, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

The Impartial Judge

1 Peter 1:17-19

And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Most of the time we don't want to think of our God as a Judge because that's 'scary'; most of the time it means condemnation, humiliation, and penalty to us. But we forget that a judge can also give a reward for work done. The question then becomes: will the judgment be condemnation or reward?

The Impartial Judge judges us based on our status before Him. If we obey Him, He treats us as sons. If we don't obey Him, it doesn't go well with us. We have no hope for a good outcome. If we are treated as sons, we can expect grace and mercy. So, how can we tell if we are pleasing to Him? The Word of God says that we must have faith to please God. What is faith? Simply stated it is trusting that God means what He says. If God says that we must trust in Jesus Christ for our salvation, it requires that we look into what He means by that so that we can make a valid decision. What He means is that there is no way that we can accomplish our own salvation without Jesus Christ.

Can He really be that restrictive? Surely there is something that I can do. I mean, I am a good person after all. Didn't He make me this way? The problem is that we inherited an evil nature from Adam when he sinned and disobeyed God and God had to ban him from the Garden. Since then we have a tendency to displease God just as Adam did. We can't do anything about that. That means that anything we do is tainted by evil motives. We're always looking to get around having to obey God. We want to do everything our own way. If that condition isn't fixed, God can't accept anything we do as good. He compares our good works to "dirty rags."

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." That confirms that we must trust in Jesus Christ for our salvation, as stated earlier, which He states in John 3:16. There is nothing else we can do to get to heaven - it is God's place by the way - except trust in what God says is necessary. It cost Him the precious blood of His only begotten Son to make it possible to restore the relationship that He intended to have with us before Adam sinned. Why should we think that our desires must override His at such a cost to Him. He not only offers Salvation but adoption as sons and an inheritance.

What more could we ask for in exchange for perishing in a Lake of Fire and eternally suffering apart from the presence and power of a good, kind, righteous and loving God who is not merely loving but just and holy.

Accept God on His terms since He is the potter and we are only clay. After all, He is the Impartial Judge.



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

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APRIL 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10



"Blessed is he
that cometh in the
name of the Lord!"
Mark 11:9

Palm Sunday
April 13

The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

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

Hallelujah! What a Savior

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/h/a/l/halwasav.htm>

"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows."

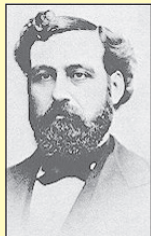
Isaiah 53:3

Words & Music: Philip P. Bliss, in *International Lessons Monthly*, 1875

Written...shortly before his death, this was the last hymn I heard Mr. Bliss sing. It was at a meeting in Farwell Hall in Chicago, conducted by Henry Moorehouse. A few weeks before his death Mr. Bliss visited the State prison at Jackson, Michigan, where, after a very touching address on "The Man of Sorrows," he sang this hymn with great effect. Many of the prisoners dated their conversion from that day.

When Mr. Moody and I were in Paris, holding meetings in the old church which Napoleon had granted to the Evangelicals, I frequently sang this hymn as a solo, asking the congregation to join in the single phrase, "Hallelujah, what a Saviour," which they did with splendid effect. It is said that the word "Hallelujah" is the same in all languages. It seems as though God had prepared it for the great jubilee of heaven, when all his children shall have been gathered home to sing "Hallelujah to the Lamb!"

Sankey, pp. 146-7



Philip P. Bliss
(1838-1876)

Man of Sorrows! what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
"Full atonement!" can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die;
"It is finished!" was His cry;
Now in Heav'n exalted high.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious king,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew His song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

April 2014

April 13	8:45 a.m.	Palm Sunday Ken McAuley preaching
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
April 15		No Bible Study- Holy Week
April 17	7:00 p.m.	Maunday Thursday at Westminster Presbyterian
April 18	6:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service in sanctuary
April 20	8:45 a.m.	Resurrection Sunday CHRIST IS RISEN
	10:30 a.m.	Church Brunch
April 22	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in the Book of Philippians
April 25	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
April 27	8:45 a.m.	New Study in the Book of Philemon
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
April 29	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Philippians
May 2	7:00 p.m.	Game Night

The Cost of Discipleship

China denies church 'demolition campaign' but says Christianity's growth 'excessive'

Communist Party in Zhejiang rejects claims of campaign against Protestant churches but one official describes Christianity's growth as 'excessive'

[HTTP://WWW.TELEGRAPH.CO.UK](http://www.telegraph.co.uk) • By TOM PHILLIPS, SHANGHAI • [WWW.PERSECUTION.ORG](http://www.persecution.org)

Communist officials in China have denied waging a "demolition campaign" against churches in the country's most Christian regions, after reportedly ordering a dozen to be destroyed.

The churches - in the eastern province of Zhejiang - are currently facing demolition or having their crosses removed, activists claim. Other churches are said to have been ordered to make themselves "less conspicuous" by turning their lights off at night.

Local preachers accuse Party officials in Zhejiang, a wealthy coastal province, of "gross interference" in Church affairs and have urged them to abandon what they believe is an orchestrated campaign.

Last week, Christians flocked to the Sanjiang church in Wenzhou - a rich port city known as the "Jerusalem of the East" because of its large Christian community - after its demolition was announced.

Officials denied launching a church demolition movement.

However, in a recent speech the provincial official in charge of religious affairs hinted at Communist Party discomfort at how fast congregations were growing in what is already considered China's most Christian region. More than one million of Wenzhou's nine million residents are thought to be practicing Protestants, according to some estimates.

Feng Zhili, the chairman of Zhejiang's ethnic and religious affairs committee, said Christianity's growth had been "too excessive and too haphazard".

China is an officially atheist state that only offers formal recognition to five religions: Buddhism, Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism and Taoism.

Religious beliefs are officially discouraged, particularly among the Communist Party's more than 85 million members.

However, support is offered to many officially sanctioned churches and some within the Communist Party view religion as a useful ally in maintaining social stability.

Xi Jinping, the president, has been quoted as saying that China is "losing its moral compass" and thinks "traditional" faiths such as Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism could "help fill a void that has allowed corruption to flourish," Reuters reported last year, citing sources close to the leadership.