A Word on Worship

Review of Message from May 11, 2014

By Pastor Andrew Kikkert, Sunrise Community Church

Hear Sunday Sermons at **www.SunriseTC.org**

Philemon 15-18

"For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me. "

Year after year we are flooded with supposedly Christian books telling you how to use God and the Bible to reach your full potential, to boost your self-esteem, and to achieve your best life now. Mankind will speak about good intentions, but they are arguments to make life about ourselves. We have missed the point. These books and sermons convey the worldly message that it's all about you, when the Scriptures make it clear it all about God and His glory.

The Bible is radically God-centered. It's all about God and His glory, not life coaching to have health, wealth or success in the home and marketplace. The main reason that you should work through your marriage problems and relate to your children in a loving manner is not so that you'll have a happy family, although it will result in that. The main reason you should work through your family problems in a godly manner is so that God will be glorified and others will be drawn to the Savior. The main reason we resolve conflicts in the Body of Christ is not to have friendship in the church, but that will happen. We resolve conflicts so that God will be glorified!

Worldly people should look at your marriage and home life and marvel at how you love one another. That's when you tell them the difference that Jesus Christ has made in your life. He gets the glory and, of course, you enjoy the harmony of a happy home. But it's all about His glory and the testimony of the gospel first. That's why when Paul gives instruction to wives and husbands in Ephesians 5:22-3), he says (5:32), "This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church." Your marriage is to reflect the loving relationship between Christ and His church.

The same is true with regard to unity in the local church. When believers cannot get along and split over minor doctrinal differences or personality conflicts, it is not a great advertisement for the gospel. The world looks at the church, shrugs its shoulders, and says, "They're no different than we are." But when we demonstrate the love of Christ, especially across cultural, social, and racial barriers, the world takes notice. And most importantly, God gets the glory.

Sunrise Community Church

Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst

Every Sunday beginning at 8:45 a.m.

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MAY 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	**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	7

The Hymns We Sing

Courtesy of The Cyber Hymnal™

http://www.hymntime.com/

Unanswered Yet

http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/u/n/a/unanswer.htm

http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/u/n/a/unanswered_yet.mid

"Hear my prayer, O Lord...in Thy faithfulness answer me."
Psalm 143:1

Charles D. Tillman (1861-1943)

Words & Music: Charles D. Tillman, *in Spiritual Songs No. 2, by Elisha A. Hoffpman (Cleveland, Ohio: Samuel Barber, 1883)*

Unanswered yet?
The prayers your lips have pleaded
In agony of heart these many years?
Does faith begin to fail, is hope departing,
And think you all in vain those falling tears?
Say not the Father hath not heard your prayer:
You shall have your desire, sometime, somewhere,
You shall have your desire, sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet?
Though when you first presented
This one petition at the Father's throne,
It seemed you could not wait the time of asking,
So urgent was your heart to make it known.
Though years have passed since then, do not despair;
The Lord will answer you, sometime, somewhere,
The Lord will answer you, sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet?
Nay, do not say ungranted;
Perhaps your part is not yet wholly done;
The work began when first your prayer was uttered,
And God will finish what He has begun.
If you will keep the incense burning there,
His glory you shall see, sometime somewhere,
His glory you shall see, sometime somewhere.

Unanswered yet?
Faith cannot be unanswered;
Her feet were firmly planted on the Rock;
Amid the wildest storm prayer stands undaunted,
Nor quail before the loudest thunder shock.
She knows Omnipotence has heard her prayer,
And cries, "It shall be done," sometime, somewhere,
And cries, "It shall be done," sometime, somewhere.

What's Happening at Sunrise

May 2014

May 11	**8:45 a.m.**	**Philemon 15-18** *God Gets the Glory*
		No Sunday School — Celebrate Mother's Day
May 13	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study* in Colossians
May 16	7:00 p.m.	Game Night
May 18	8:45 a.m.	**New Study in the Book of Ruth**
		Ruth 1:1-22 Best of Times, Worst of Times
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
May 20	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study* in Colossians
May 23	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
May 25	8:45 a.m.	Ruth 2:1-23 Can Christian Mingle Beat This?
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
May 26		**Memorial Day**
May 27		**No Bible Study** – Wendy Post Operation
May 30		**No Friday Night Activity**
June 1	8:45 a.m.	Ruth 3:1-18 Undercover Operations
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
June 3	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study* in Colossians
June 6	7:00 p.m.	Game Night
June 8	8:45 a.m.	**Pentecost Sunday**
		Ruth 4:1-22 Gentile Redemption!
June 10	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study* in Colossians
June 13	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship

**Bible Study is at the Kikkerts' home*

Iranian church growing despite risk of death

By Gary Lane • CBN News Sr. International Reporter

THE MIDDLE EAST — Iran's new president has promised to protect the country's Christians, but attacks are intensifying. As they work to survive, CBN News was given an exclusive, rare view that few outsiders witness: a secret meeting of new Iranian believers in a neighboring country, not far from the border.

The brand new followers of Christ received Bible teaching and participated in their very first communion. After a few songs and prayers, several were baptized. Then they returned to more late-night Bible study and training before returning to Iran.

For the first time, these Christians learned how to look up and memorize Scripture. They're Kurds, former Muslims who converted to Christianity. If their identities and location were revealed to secret police, Iranian agents would have come to arrest them. Some may have been killed for being apostates.

The Iranian church continues to grow in Iran despite — or perhaps because of — the inhumane treatment of prisoners. Iran has one of the fastest growing Christian populations in the world.

Evangelist Reza said that more Iranians tell him they've grown tired of the oppressive policies of the ayatollahs. "I was tied down. A mullah held the Koran in his hand and recited a verse and then a soldier beat my back with a cable," he explained.

"It made me feel deep hatred against Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran. All I did was grab a sandwich and eat it. Why is that a sin?" he asked.

Later, Daoud met some Christians on the Internet who introduced him to Christ. He embraced Christianity after witnessing miracles of healing and deliverance.

Daoud keeps his newfound faith secret, while quietly and cautiously sharing Christ with others in his city.

"Right now, it is really scary because if the government knows about it, I'm pretty sure they will execute me," he said.