

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM DEC. 7, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

How Are Your Vital Signs?

1 John 5:1-4

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.”



We all know of people who claim to be Christians and yet their lives seem to bear little resemblance to one who obeys His commands. Jesus warned that there will be many who call Him “Lord” who even have done miracles in His name, but at the judgment He will say, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness” (Matthew 7:23). In light of these things, we all need to be clear about whether we truly have been born again or not.

Every parent knows the great joy of seeing a new life come into this world. Some parents must go through the pain and sorrow of having a stillborn baby. The difference consists in that one quality, which even modern medicine cannot impart - life. In the spiritual realm, as in the physical, new life means everything. If a person is truly born of God, there will be signs of life. If those signs are missing, there is cause for great alarm.

The very first test given to a newborn in the delivery room is called the Apgar score. The test was designed to quickly evaluate a newborn’s physical condition after delivery and to determine any immediate need for extra medical or emergency care. It measures things like muscle tone, heart rate, reflexes, skin color, and breathing rate. The vital signs of birth are essential. The vital signs of spiritual birth are just as essential.

A true child of God will have a spiritual Apgar score. We could probably come up with more, but John gives us three vital signs of the new birth: faith in Jesus Christ, love for others, and obedience to God’s commandments. If you claim to be born again, you may want to check your spiritual Apgar score. If the vital signs of new life in Christ are not there, you need to get down on your knees and plead with God to cause you “to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3).

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

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The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

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

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

“Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you shall come for Me One who will be Ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Micah 5:2

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/o/li/olittle.htm>

http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/s/t/l/st_louis.mid

Words: Phillips Brooks, 1867. Brooks wrote about his horseback journey from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, where he assisted with the midnight service on Christmas Eve, 1865.



Phillips Brooks
(1835-1893)

I remember standing in the old church in Bethlehem, close to the spot where Jesus was born, when the whole church was ringing hour after hour with splendid hymns of praise to God, how again and again it seemed as if I could hear voices I knew well, telling each other of the Wonderful Night of the Savior's birth.



Lewis H. Redner
(1831-1908)

Music: St. Louis Lewis H. Redner, 1868. Redner was Brooks' organist at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The tune came to him on Christmas Eve, and was first sung the next day.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee, Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

December 2014



DECEMBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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

Dec. 7	8:45 a.m.	1st John 5 verses 1 to 5 <i>How Are Your Vital Signs?</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Second Hour
Dec. 9	7:00 PM	Bible Study in 1st Thessalonians
Dec. 12	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
Dec. 14	8:45 a.m.	1st John 5 verses 6 to 13 <i>Is Christianity Merely Psychological?</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Second Hour
Dec. 16	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in 1st Thessalonians
Dec. 19	6:30 p.m.	SUNRISE CHRISTMAS PARTY- Fireside Room
Dec. 21	8:45 a.m.	Christmas Message
	10:30 a.m.	Second Hour
Dec. 23		No Bible Study- Christmas Break
Dec. 24	6:00 p.m.	Westminster Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25		Celebrate the Savior's Birth
Dec. 26		No Friday Night Activities
Dec. 28	8:45 a.m.	1st John 5 verses 14 to 17
	10:30 a.m.	Confidence in Prayer Second Hour
Dec. 30		No Bible Study
Dec. 31		New Year's Eve
Jan. 1		New Year's Day



Town finds way to keep Christ theme in its Christmas parade

By Todd Starnes, host of Fox News & Commentary, heard on hundreds of radio stations

The annual Christmas parade in Piedmont, Alabama features its home grown pretty girls, the local high school marching band and Santa Claus in the procession down North Main Street on a bright red fire truck. But the parade committee wanted to honor the “reason for the season” and selected “Keep Christ in Christmas” as the theme of the Thursday, Dec. 4 night parade. Seeing how there’s a church on nearly every street corner in town – no one gave it a second thought, Mayor Bill Baker said.

But, the Freedom From Religion Foundation from Wisconsin alleged that a single person in Piedmont had complained about the parade theme – and the FFRF sent the mayor a threatening letter. The theme “alienates non-Christians and others in Piedmont who do not in fact have a ‘strong belief in prayers’ by turning them into political outsiders in their own community,” the FFRF attorney wrote. They told the city to find a “more appropriate, more inclusive, and constitutional theme” for the parade.

The city attorney told the mayor that the theme violated the law – there was nothing they could do. The committee agreed to not officially have a parade theme but the committee found a way to legally keep Christ in the parade. The mayor said private citizens who applied as entrants will be marching with signs reading “Let’s Keep Christ in Christmas.”

“They paid their entry fees,” the mayor said. “It’s a positive march - it’s not a protest march. They are keeping the theme alive even though legally we had to do away with it.”