

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM DEC. 14, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

1 John 5:6-8

“This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.”



Skeptics frequently allege that Christian conversion is merely a psychological phenomenon that can be explained in purely naturalistic terms. In their minds, conversion to Christ is a purely subjective experience. They will agree it is nice if it works for you, but you shouldn't try to impose it on everyone else or say that those who do not believe as you do are wrong. If you say that Jesus Christ changed your life, the skeptic will reply, "That's great for you, but it doesn't prove that Christianity is true for everyone else. Buddhism changed Richard Gere's life. Scientology changed Tom Cruise's life. Cabalistic Judaism seems to have changed Madonna's life. So if changed lives are the criteria of truth, there is plenty of evidence that Christianity is not the only religious truth out there."

How do you counter such arguments? There is value in subjective, inner assurance of the truth of the gospel for believers. But we need a more sure foundation for our faith than our subjective experience alone provides. Throughout 1 John, the apostle has been addressing the matter of authentic Christianity. False teachers had caused confusion in the church and had left, taking a number of people with them. They claimed to have secret knowledge about Jesus Christ, but their teaching contradicted the apostolic witness to Christ. John repeatedly shows that authentic Christians believe the truth about Jesus Christ, they obey God's commandments, and they love one another.

John wasn't relaying some inner, subjective vision or philosophy. He was telling about his objective experience with Jesus Christ. You can't get much more objective than seeing, hearing, and touching! Jesus Christ is God's witness to us through the apostles who spent three years with Him. In our text, John comes back to this objective witness with which he opened this letter. He wants us to have a sure foundation for our faith. Authentic Christian faith rests on God's testimony to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

If you don't know whether or not you have eternal life, nothing is more important than to make sure. Go back and read again God's testimony of His Son in the gospels. See the witness of the Spirit throughout the life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. God's testimony about Jesus is the foundation of our faith. Christianity is not just a psychological experience. It rests on this solid witness.

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

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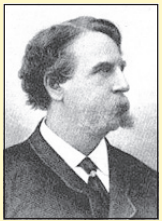
<http://www.hymntime.com/>

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/i/t/c/itcameup.htm>
<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/c/a/r/carol.mid>

“There were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.”

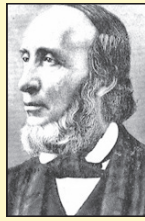
Luke 2:8-9



Richard S. Willis
(1819-1900)

Words: Edmund H. Sears, in the *Christian Register* (Boston, Massachusetts: December 29, 1849), volume 28, number 52, page 206. Sears is said to have written these words at the request of his friend, W. P. Lunt, a minister in Quincy, Massachusetts; the hymn was first sung at the 1849 Sunday School Christmas celebration.

Music: Carol Richard S. Willis, *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 185



Edmund H. Sears
(1810-1876)

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From Heaven’s all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever over its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife
And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

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. 14 8:45 a.m. 1st John 5 verses 6 to 13
Is Christianity Merely Psychological?
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
Confidence in Prayer
10:30 a.m. Second Hour
- Dec. 30 No Bible Study
- Dec. 31 New Year’s Eve
- Jan. 1 New Year’s Day



Florist may lose her business, assets for declining gay wedding

[HTTP://WWW.CHRIStIANPOST.COM/](http://www.christianpost.com/)

A lawsuit filed by the state attorney general is moving forward against a Washington State florist who refused to supply floral arrangements for a same-sex wedding ceremony based on her religious objection, which could put her at risk of serious financial loss and the loss of her business.

Baronelle Stutzman, who owns and operates Arlene’s Flowers in Richland, Washington, is being sued by the Washington State attorney general’s office for refusing to supply flowers for a same-sex couple’s wedding ceremony. Instead, she referred the couple to another nearby florist who could supply flowers for their wedding.

The attorney general’s office filed its lawsuit against Stutzman in 2013, and after the judge who was presiding over the case joined the federal bench, another judge has been appointed to the case and began hearing arguments on the case last week. Judge Alex Ekstrom is expected to set the start of the trial for sometime in the Spring. The attorney general is not just suing Stutzman, but is also suing her business, a statement from the Alliance Defending Freedom indicates.

Stutzman is being defended by ADF, which is an advocacy group defending the freedom of religion. Since Stutzman is being sued personally and her business is also being sued, the ADF statement says the lawsuit has put Stutzman at serious risk to lose the business as well as her personal assets. Although Stutzman has supplied flowers to gay couples in the past, when Robert Ingersoll came to ask for her to supply the floral arrangements for his wedding ceremony, where he would marry his partner Curt Freed, Stutzman felt obligated to turn them down. Stutzman, who has been a florist for more than 40 years, based her reasoning off of her deeply held religious belief that marriage should only be between one man and one woman.

Washington law states that no business can discriminate against a customer based on his or her sexual orientation. However, ADF senior counsel Kristen Waggoner, the lawyer assigned to Stutzman’s case, holds that since there are a number of other florists willing to provide flowers for same-sex weddings, the state’s prosecution seems like an attempt to get Stutzman to surrender her “livelihood and liberty.”