

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

## REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM JANUARY 15, 2015

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at [www.SunriseTC.org](http://www.SunriseTC.org)

### 2 John 7-8

*“For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.”*

The word heresy sounds outdated these days. It just smacks of arrogance, because to accuse someone of heresy implies that I am right and not just that he is wrong, but seriously wrong. It also assumes that there is such a thing as definable truth and error in the spiritual realm. But in our day, spiritual “truth” is subjective and relative. If it’s true for you, that’s cool. But I have my own spiritual “truths” that work for me. So who are you to accuse me of heresy?

But before we put heresy in the museum as a relic from the past, we need to think carefully. There is one huge factor that renders heresy a valid concept, namely, the fact that God is and that He has revealed Himself to us through His written Word. If God exists, not as a projection of men’s minds, but as the eternal Sovereign Creator of the universe, then He is the ultimate and final standard of truth. And if He has spoken to us in His Word, then as Jesus said, His Word is truth (John 17:17). Either Jesus was mistaken or lying, or God’s Word is truth. Any deviation from His Word on core matters, such as the person and work of Jesus Christ or the way of salvation, is heresy.

Before we think to ourselves that we could never fall prey to heresy, we need to remember our own weakness to desire what we want instead of what God has provided. We are all susceptible to heretical teachings because in one form or another, they nurture and reflect the way we would have it be rather than the way God has provided, which is infinitely better for us. The whispers of prosperity and blessing from God as our divine right lead us into the blind alleys of self-indulgence and escape from life. Heresies in all their forms pander to the most unworthy tendencies of the human heart.

As we have seen, there is an inseparable connection between truth and love. Biblical love seeks the highest good of the one loved. If a false teacher is actively involved in deceiving people about the truth so that they go to eternal condemnation, then we are not acting in love to do anything to encourage such teachers in their misleading deeds. John Stott observes, “If John’s instruction still seems harsh, it is perhaps because his concern for the glory of the Son and the good of men’s souls is greater than ours, and because ‘the tolerance on which we pride ourselves’ is in reality an ‘indifference to truth.’”

**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™

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## The Eastern Gate

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/e/a/s/easterng.htm>

[http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/e/a/s/the\\_eastern\\_gate.mid](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/e/a/s/the_eastern_gate.mid)

“Thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night.”

Isaiah 60:11

Words & Music: Isaiah G. Martin, 1905

I will meet you in the morning,  
Just inside the Eastern Gate.  
Then be ready, faithful pilgrim,  
Lest with you it be too late.

### Refrain

*I will meet you, I will meet you  
Just inside the Eastern Gate over there.  
I will meet you, I will meet you,  
I will meet you in the morning over there.*

If you hasten off to glory,  
Linger near the Eastern Gate,  
For I'm coming in the morning;  
So you'll not have long to wait.

### Refrain

Keep your lamps all trimmed and burning;  
For the Bridegroom watch and wait.  
He'll be with us at the meeting  
Just inside the Eastern Gate.

### Refrain

O the joys of that glad meeting  
With the saints who for us wait!  
What a blessed, happy meeting  
Just inside the Eastern Gate!

### Refrain



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE January 2015

Jan. 18	8:45 AM	2nd John Verses 7 to 13 Prescription for a Healthy Church Pt 2
	10:30 AM	Sunday School
Jan. 20	7:00 PM	Bible Study at the Kikkert's
Jan. 23	6:30 PM	Friday Night Fellowship
Jan. 25	8:45 AM	3rd John Verses 1 to 15 <i>Spiritual Life and Love</i>
	10:30 AM	Sunday School
Jan. 27	7:00 PM	Bible Study at the Kikkert's
Jan. 30		No Friday Night Activities

## Duke cancels Muslim call to prayer from chapel tower

BY TODD STARNES, FOXNEWS.COM

Duke University has abandoned its plan to transform the bell tower on the Methodist school's neo-gothic cathedral into a minaret where the Muslim call to prayer was to be publicly broadcast.

“Duke remains committed to fostering an inclusive, tolerant and welcoming campus for all of its students,” university spokesman Michael Schoenfeld said in a statement. “However, it was clear that what was conceived as an effort to unify was not having the intended effect.”

The first adhan, or call to prayer, had been scheduled to be broadcast on Jan. 16. University officials said, the Islamic chant, which includes the words “Allahu Akbar” would have been “moderately amplified” — in both English and Arabic. However, the decision brought a firestorm of national criticism from a number of high profile leaders including Franklin Graham, the son of famed evangelist Billy Graham.

“This is a Methodist school and the money for that chapel was given by Christian people over the years so that the student body would have a place to worship the God of the Bible,” Graham told me in a telephone interview. He had called for university donors to pull their funding - (and I suspect that had something to do with Duke's decision.) Instead, the prayers will be moved to outside the chapel. “Members of the Muslim community will now gather on the quadrangle outside the Chapel, a site of frequent interfaith programs and activities,” Schoenfeld said.

The university did not say whether the Muslim call to prayer would be “moderately amplified” at the new location. Christy Lohr Sapp, Duke's associate dean for religious life, heralded the Muslim call to prayer in a column published by the NewsObserver.com.

“The use of it as a minaret allows for the interreligious reimagining of a university icon,” Lohr Sapp wrote. For the record, the university says the chapel is not exclusively used for Christian worship. It's used by students of many different religions.

She imagined what it would be like for a students to walk through the chapel quad and “catch the sight of the student muezzin facing Mecca in the Chapel tower” and how “they might catch a strain of the Arabic proclamation, ‘Allahu Akbar!’ which means ‘God is great.’”

“This opportunity represents a larger commitment to religious pluralism that is at the heart of Duke's mission and connects the university national trends in religious accommodation,” Lohr Sapp said

TODD STARNES IS HOST OF FOX NEWS & COMMENTARY, HEARD ON HUNDREDS OF RADIO STATIONS. SIGN UP FOR HIS AMERICAN DISPATCH NEWSLETTER, BE SURE TO JOIN HIS FACEBOOK PAGE, AND FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER. HIS LATEST BOOK IS “GOD LESS AMERICA.”

According to BreitbartNews.com, it all started when a University alumnus made a \$3 million dollar donation to fund the position of Director of Islamic Studies at Duke University. Bettye Martin Musham, who gifted the Islamic Studies Center with the vast sum of money, said that she was convinced that it was the right thing to do after hearing a lecture on the meaning of jihad. Musham said that she and her husband would later become “hooked with the importance of Islam.”

Dr. Omid Safi was appointed to run Islamic Studies at Duke University in July of 2014. He has been the point of contact for several media outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, and Huffington Post, in response to Duke University reversing its decision to broadcast Muslim prayers from Duke Chapel.

Following Duke's retraction of allowing for Islamic prayer to be amplified from the school's chapel, Safi took to Twitter to express his discontent.

The Duke Islamic leader has time and time again expressed radical ideals through his social media accounts, news articles, and television appearances. Dr. Safi has frequently described the worldwide Muslim community as one that is “oppressed” and “marginalized,” and excused the perpetrators of the Charlie Hebdo massacre as victims of political grievances.