

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM JANUARY 25, 2015

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

3 John 2-4

“Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.”

As in all of John’s writings, truth is a central concept in 3 John. He mentions it six times in these thirteen verses, plus the word “true” in verse 12. As we’ve seen, John’s greatest joy was to hear of his spiritual children walking in the truth. Why did the aged apostle hammer on the truth so often? One reason was that he was the last living apostle, and he saw numerous errors creeping into the churches. Also, the Lord Jesus had repeatedly emphasized the truth in His earthly ministry.

In John 1:14, John testified that Jesus was “full of grace and truth.” In John 3:21, “he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.” In John 4:23, Jesus explained that the Father seeks those who “worship in spirit and truth.” In John 8:32, Jesus said, “and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” In John 14:6, Jesus claimed, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit of truth”. He prayed in John 17:17, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.” Jesus told the skeptical Pilate in John 18:37, “For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

The huge emphasis on truth in John’s writings teaches us that truth matters! How a person thinks about God, man, salvation, and life determines how that person lives. A person with false concepts in these areas will live differently than the person with a biblical view in these important matters. Since Jesus Himself is the truth and since God’s Word is truth, Satan works overtime to undermine the truth about the person and work of Christ and the truth of God’s inerrant Word.

So truth was a huge emphasis in Jesus’ ministry, and therefore, too, in the life and ministry of the apostle John. Contrary to the current postmodern philosophy that denies absolute truth in the spiritual realm, the Bible clearly affirms that there is theological and moral truth and error. This truth centers in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Since God is the author of truth, whereas Satan is the author of spiritual lies, God’s people must know and obey the truth as revealed in God’s Word. Then it may be said of you, “Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.” And your pastor will have great joy to hear that you are walking in the 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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Heal Us, Emmanuel

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/h/e/a/healusem.htm>

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/gr/ra/grafenberg.mid>

“By His wounds we are healed.” *Isaiah 53:5*



William Cowper
(1731-1800)



Johann Crüger
(1598-1662)

Words: William Cowper (1731-1800) *Olney Hymns*
(London: W. Oliver, 1779).

Music: *Gräfenberg* by Johann Crüger (1598-1662),
Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1647

Heal us, Emmanuel, hear our prayer
We wait to feel Thy touch;
Deep wounded souls to Thee repair,
And Savior, we are such.

Our faith is feeble, we confess
We faintly trust Thy Word;
But wilt Thou pity us the less?
Be that far from Thee, Lord!

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief
“Lord, I believe,” with tears he cried;
“O help my unbelief!”

She, too, who touched Thee in the
press
And healing virtue stole,
Was answered, “Daughter, go in
peace;
Thy faith has made thee whole.”

Concealed amid the gathering throng,
She would have shunned Thy view;
And if her faith was firm and strong,
Had strong misgivings too.

Like her, with hopes and fears we
come
To touch Thee if we may;
O send us not despairing home;
Send none unhealed away.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE February 2015

Jan. 25	8:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	3rd John verses 1 to 15 <i>How Rich Are You?</i> Digging Deeper in Second Hour
Jan. 27	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in 1st Thessalonians
Jan. 30		No Friday Night Activities- 5th Friday Night
Feb. 1	8:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	New Study in the Book of Jude <i>Introduction to Jude</i> Corporate Prayer
Feb. 3	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in 1st Thessalonians
Feb. 6	7:00 p.m.	Game Night
Feb. 8	8:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Jude verses 1 & 2 <i>Digging Deeper in Jude</i>
Feb. 10	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in 2nd Thessalonians
Feb. 13	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
Feb. 14		Valentine's Day
Feb. 15	8:45 a.m. 10:30	Jude verse 3 ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK
Feb. 17	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in 2nd Thessalonians
Feb. 20	12:00 p.m.	Temple City Camellia Festival
Feb. 21	10 a.m.-11 p.m.	Temple City Camellia Festival
Feb. 22	8:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12-8:00 p.m.	Jude verses 4 to 7 Digging Deeper in Second Hour Temple City Camellia Festival
Feb. 24	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in 2nd Thessalonians
Feb. 27	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship



Chinese Christians arrested while gathered for Bible study

CHINA AID

(Beijing-Jan. 15, 2015) Police in Beijing dispersed more than 25 people at a house church gathering on Sunday and took more than 20 of those worshippers in for interrogations. Shunyi District's Guoshulin Church, home to dozens of Christians who travel to and from Beijing for work or other matters, was holding a Bible study at 8 p.m. on Sunday when more than 10 officers from the Gaoliying Police Station raided the gathering.

“As we finished our worship, a missionary had just got to the podium to lead us in reading passages from the Bible, and we were praying when the police raided us,” a Guoshulin Church member said. “They told us to stop the gathering. There were about 27 people in the gathering. The police took all the people who didn't have identification cards to the local police station; there were more than 20 [without ID cards]. The police also took several copies of Bibles and hymnals.”

“The director of the police station is Li Jincheng, the same police officer who raided us last year. When Li Jincheng left last time, he tried to erase all the information for the projectors off our computers. However, they failed to erase all the information as time was quite tight for them, but they did erase a lot of information. The police also said they wouldn't allow us to gather again. They said we must move out of Gaoliying,” the Christian said.

Another worshipper, who was detained and interrogated, said that the Christians were released around 10:30 p.m. Sunday night.

“The police wanted us to take out all the stuff we had on us and took information from our cell phones. They checked our identification cards, and after they made a written record, they let us go,” he said. “They said our gathering was an illegal assembly and was unlawful. When we got to the police station, they said that the site is illegal and that we must not go to that site again.”

China Aid tried to contact Li Jincheng at the Gaoliying Police Station, but our phone calls were not returned.

When we spoke with an official named Jia from the Gaoliying Township Government's Religious Affairs Bureau, he said that the gathering was illegal