

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM MAY 24, 2015

BY ELDER THOM RACHFORD, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Illusion or Reality

The word illusion is from the Latin *illusio*, which means “the action of mocking”. Illusion is defined as the action of deceiving, the state or fact of being intellectually deceived or misled or the perception of something objectively existing in such a way as to cause misinterpretation of its actual nature. Deceit is the core present in all illusion.

Reality on the other hand is defined as the quality or state of being real; a real event, entity or state of affairs; something that is neither derivative nor dependent but exists necessarily in actual fact. Truth is the core present in reality.

In today’s world illusion is presented as the norm. At all levels of society from the government, the media, education, and from people in general conversation we hear illusions presented as fact or truth. And we like the illusions. Illusions usually make the world and our lives seem better, easier, less troublesome, more comforting and less requiring of action, some times difficult action, on our part. In general, we like to hear the illusion we want to believe because the illusion seems to be more fun or more fulfilling, or more safe or satisfying than the reality.

The problem with illusion is that it is not only false but it is only temporary. For example, the illusion that there is no Hell or that everyone who is “good” goes to Heaven. For the person who does not know Jesus these illusions are comforting. Illusion frees the mind and spirit from restraints. If there is no Hell, that implies that there are no spiritual consequences to actions. If there is no Hell, there are no absolutes that govern whether or not I go to Hell. This allows me to do anything as long as I can stand or better yet, avoid societies’ consequences. And if there is a Heaven, I certainly am good enough to go there. After all, I am better than Hitler, or Stalin, or a mass murderer, etc.

No matter how “bad” we are, we cling to the illusion that “the good/bad line is drawn just below just us. It is people below the line who don’t qualify for Heaven. I am always above the line. This illusion is comforting until the day you die.

Then the temporary euphoria disappears as the reality becomes strikingly apparent in a nano second. At death, the reality of Heaven (being with the Lord) with all its reward and blessings, or the reality of Hell (being without the Lord) and all Hell’s consequences, rushes upon us. The reality or truth of Heaven or Hell is immediately evident and unfortunately for those in Hell recognized as unchangeable. Every person who ever lives will experience the reality of Heaven or Hell, whether you physically die or you are among the raptured.

Believers in Jesus can rely on being in heaven. In John 14:6 Jesus said “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me”. Where is the Father? Heaven. In John 14:3 Jesus said “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also”. Where is Jesus? Heaven. Mark 16:19 “So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God”.



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 Come All Ye Saints

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/o/c/a/ocaysain.htm>
<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/h/a/n/hanover.mid>

“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20

Words: Franklin Hunter, released to the public domain April 11, 2003
Franklin Hunter, Born: January 29, 1937, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Hunter was converted at age 16, in a Christian Endeavour meeting at the Donegall Road Methodist Church, Belfast, March 24, 1953. Most of his Christian life has been spent in Pentecostal circles, but since moving to Downpatrick five years ago he has worshipped at a small Baptist church, where he ministers regularly.



William Croft
1678-1727

Music: Hanover attributed to William Croft, in The Supplement to the New Version of Psalms, by Nahum Tate & Nicholas Brady, 6th edition, 1708.

O come all ye saints, in glorious dress,
Arrayed in His love, and His righteousness.
Come sing in His presence, come speak of His grace
He's standing among us, behold His dear face.

With hearts ready tuned, our voices entwine
Together we'll sing His praises divine.
Lift high the great chorus, yea sound it abroad
To Jesus our Saviour, omnipotent God.

O glad is the soul and joyful the heart,
That centres the thoughts, so none can depart,
From worshipping Jesus, from praising His name
This then is that river, and this is His fame.

Bless ye then the Lord, who serve day and night,
Who stand in His house, a wonderful sight
Where seraphs are bowing, where angels attend,
The seat of His mercy, where praises all blend.

Say “Yes” to His praise, and “Yes” for His love
Speak often of peace that comes from above.
Call mercy, a river, watch grace flowing through
This glorious salvation, says this is for you.

Our theme then shall be to worship the Lord
In spirit to sing the truth of His word
Come join in our praises, the anthems prolong
For Jesus is coming, that day won't be long.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE May 2015

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| May 24 | 8:45 AM | Thom Rachford Preaching |
| | 10:30 AM | Second Hour |
| May 26 | 7:00 PM | Bible Study at the Kikkert's |
| May 29 | | No Friday Night Activities |
| May 31 | 8:45AM | <i>The Man Who Won a War Without</i> |
| | | 2nd Chronicles 20 |
| | 10:30 AM | Second Hour |
| June 2 | 7:00 PM | Bible Study at the Kikkert's |
| June 5 | 7:00 PM | Game Night |
| June 7 | 8:45AM | <i>The Man Who Cried for God to Co</i> |
| | | Isaiah 63 & 64 |
| | 10:30 AM | Second Hour |



Muslims defy Ethiopian courts to forcibly build mosque on Christian's land; Government, police officials are complicit

BY TROY AUGUSTINE, INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN

International Christian Concern (ICC) has learned that a Muslim mob in Deder, Ethiopia, has attacked a Christian man and forced him out of his home on the threat of death. Local Muslims want to appropriate his land so that they can build a mosque. Their actions are despite recent court rulings that guaranteed his property rights.

Fikere Mengistu's family has owned their land for more than 90 years, but a mob of more than 20 Muslims in Kufanzik village remain intent on forcibly building a mosque on the Mengistu farm in defiance of the law. Muslims make up the religious majority in the area. They have destroyed his fence and have looted his possessions. In addition, the local police are complicit in these attempts to steal his land.

“Their first plan was to kill my husband,” Mengistu's wife, Haregewoyan, said. “Now, he has escaped from the area. We are fasting and praying for God to rescue us from this forceful action,” she added.

ICC provided legal assistance to Fikere Mengistu to retain his land when Muslims previously attempted to steal it in late 2014. He won the legal battle, but now they've returned and are attempting to take it by force. The authorities are letting it happen. In the past, he has faced threats from local police officers, has been forced to pay bribes, and has been imprisoned simply because he is a Christian.

The harassment started when Mengistu built a house for his 93-year-old mother two years ago. Fearing that the village's 38 Christians would use the house to gather for prayer, dozens of Muslims began to occupy his land and would remain for weeks at a time shouting “Allahu akhbar,” meaning “God is great.” They even destroyed his elderly mother's home as they attempted to drive the Mengistu family off their land and use it to build a mosque. The Muslims claimed Mengistu's land belonged to the government. However, courts at the state level (East Harerghe Zone level), and the district level (Deder) both upheld Mengistu's land title in November 2014 and April 2015, respectively. Despite the court decisions, Deder Police Commander Abadir Yuya claimed they were not valid and needed to be reviewed. Since then, the mob has continued harassing the Mengistu family.

“We did our best try to defend our faith based on the law of the country and with all our resources, including ICC budget, to pay for our legal expenses. Muslims are out of the control of the government and the law. What can we do?” Mengistu said.

The Muslim rioters have resumed construction of a mosque on the Mengistu property and have designated the structure as a voting precinct, having placed a ballot box there for the upcoming national election, Sunday, May 24. ICC's Ethiopia staffer says the mob has employed this strategy in an attempt to legally justify continued construction.

“They are expanding their new mosque and building fences,” Mengistu's wife said fearfully. She remains with her five children, aged mother-in-law, and 30 other Christians praying on the property. “Please help me protect my land and secure my family and the fellow Christians,” she continued.

The main culprits perpetuating the illegal construction include Zone Police representative Abdi, militia leader Heder Abdi, and District Administrator Tajur Shami, who ordered the militia to protect the project.