

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 24, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

## *Mark 13:1-2*

“As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.”



As Jesus departs the temple, the disciples are in awe of the magnificence of the construction around them. Many of us have seen models of the temple or read descriptions and marveled at engineering it would take to construct a building with such huge stones inlaid with gold. This structure went beyond civic pride; it gave the Jews a sense of security because it was the place where God lived. The psalmist wrote of the temple in Psalm 132:14 “This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.” How could the Lord abandon such a magnificent structure or allow it to be destroyed by an occupying enemy?

Just as the great harlot of Babylon mesmerized John in Revelation 17, the temple’s awesome majesty entralls the disciples with its size, beauty and the power of its economic engine. What they need is perspective to see through the gleam of the gold and to realize this was not going to stand forever. God is no longer blessing this building which must come down stone by stone. The temple belongs to the old order, whose builders will reject the stone who will become central to God’s new temple. If there is one thing Jesus always gives people, it is perspective.

Despite the promises of hope and change, what happens when real trouble comes your way if you have unrealistic expectations about what the future holds? When the promises fail to arrive on our timeline we are going to start asking questions. When reality does not meet our expectations we will question our reality before we question our expectations. Jesus cuts through the disciples’ expectations with perspective to say the temptation is to look for an escape because your plan does not include suffering, trials and persecution. Without godly perspective, the heart of man is directed to find someone who they can trust to get us out of our present reality, instead of trusting the One who will see us through the trials of our reality.

What are your expectations for life? Is your expectation a honeymoon or is your expectation reality? What is your expectation of the church? Whether you are speaking of the pastor or the attitude of those who occupy the pews, our expectations need to be realistic. (You may want to read 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians to place your expectations in a reasonable zone.) Is the gospel we preach a realistic gospel, or do we only speak of the blessing and omit the cost of discipleship? Jesus never went light on the cost of following Him, “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” (Luke 14:25). If we have the right expectations, we will not become disillusioned when God’s timeline differs from our time line.

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

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FEBRUARY 2013							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
27	28	29	30	31	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	1	2	

MARCH 2013							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6	



Invite a Neighbor to Church

## What's Happening at Sunrise February – March 2013

Feb. 24	8:45 a.m.	Mark 13: 1-13 <i>Setting Expectations for the Last Days</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Second Hour
	12-8:00 p.m.	Camellia Festival-Temple City Park
Feb. 26	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Galatians
Mar. 1	7:00 p.m.	Game Night in the Sanctuary
Mar. 3	8: 45 a.m.	Mark 13: 14-23 The Abominations that Cause Desolation
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Mar. 5		No Bible Study – Pastor Andy Late Week
Mar. 8	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
Mar. 9	1:00 p.m.	Mildred Long's 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration
Mar. 10	8:45 a.m.	Mark13: 24-37 <i>The Dark Side of the Second Coming</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Corporate Prayer during 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour
Mar. 12	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Galatians
Mar. 15	7:00 p.m.	Game Night in the Sanctuary
Mar. 17	8:45 a.m.	Mark 14: 1-11 <i>Working Like the Devil to Serve the Lord</i>
	10:30 a.m.	Second Hour
Mar. 19	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study in Galatians
Mar. 22	6:30 p.m.	Friday Night Fellowship
Mar. 24	8:45 a.m.	Sunday Service
	10:30 a.m.	Second Hour
Mar. 25	7:00 p.m.	Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Listening
Mar. 26	7:00 p.m.	Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Listening
Mar. 27	7:00 p.m.	Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Listening
Mar. 28	7:00 p.m.	Westminster Maundy Thursday Services
Mar. 29	6:00 p.m.	Sunrise Good Friday Services
Mar. 31	8:45 a.m.	Resurrection Sunday Services
	10:30 a.m.	Community Pot Luck Brunch

### Fla. County Board Reverses Decision, Allows Church to Erect Cross

After nearly six years of effort, culminating in a year-long battle with the zoning board in Charlotte County, Fla., Lutheran Church of the Cross in Port Charlotte will now be able to build a 60-foot monument cross on its 11-acre property. Last week, the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners voted 4-0 to instruct zoning staff to reexamine whether the monument cross should be classified as a "sign" or as a "structure" and "work of art."

In March, the zoning board denied the church's request because the board misclassified the freestanding cross as a "sign." The cross exceeded the acceptable specifications under the inapplicable sign ordinance: 40 feet high and 150 square feet maximum area. The cross as designed is 60 feet high with 2,400 square feet of area.

"Charlotte County's intransigent classification of the church's monument cross as a 'sign' after expressing concerns about what non-Christians might think of the church's

monument cross exposes the County to liability," Liberty Counsel wrote in a letter to the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners. "At a minimum, the County's misclassification and continued delay is a violation of the church's rights under Florida's Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the church's First Amendment rights, and its rights under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act."

"I am thankful that the Charlotte County Commissioners acknowledged that the cross was not a 'sign,' but a 'structure' as well as a 'work of art,' thereby enabling the county to issue Lutheran Church of the Cross a permit to erect a cross on their property. This classification is consistent with other works of art located throughout Charlotte County. I am pleased that the Charlotte County Commissioners made the right decision," Staver concluded.

Have you connected to the WEB SITE lately? [www.SunriseTC.org](http://www.SunriseTC.org)