

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

## REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM JULY 20, 2014

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

### 1 John 2:1-2

*“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”*

The Apostle John has spent the first chapter of his letter exhorting us to live in the light as God is in the light. As a person who wants to please God, I find these to be some of the hardest words in Scripture. I want to please Him and yet I know how far short of this simple command I live every day of my life. Then John graciously adds, “But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father.” In other words, don’t despair when you sin; there is hope in Jesus Christ.



You may ask why John would say this if his aim was that we not sin. It’s as if he has just succeeded in creating such an impression of the seriousness of sin that we begin to flee from it the way we should, and then he blows it, by giving us an out when we do sin. Instead of calling his wisdom into question, we should humble ourselves and learn from him. The strugglers among us might wish that John had never said in 1:7, *“If we walk in the light . . . the blood of Jesus cleanses from sin.”* And the strong among us might wish that John had never said in 2:1, *“But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father.”* The struggler may feel John makes the ongoing experience of forgiveness dependent on walking in the light, so the gospel is conditional and leaves them in despair. The strong person may feel that when he stresses the advocacy of Christ to Christians who sin, he cheapens the gospel and turns it into license to sin.

So let the struggler and the strong learn from John. For the way of God is not *either-or*. It is *both-and*. We must walk in the light if we are to go on experiencing the cleansing of Jesus. And if we sin, we do indeed have an advocate with the Father. There is sin that is unto death and there is sin that is not unto death. And the reason there can be sin that is not unto death is because we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. But not only that, we need to include the first half of Verse 2 in order to understand why we should not despair. *“He is the propitiation for our sins.”* More literally: He is the *payment* for our sins.

John’s message to us today is clearly, *don’t sin!* It is tremendously and terribly serious, causing great pain and hurt in your life and the life of the Church. But if you do sin, don’t despair because your attorney is the Son of the Judge. He is righteous and he makes his case for you not on the basis of your perfection but on his propitiation. Be of good courage, don’t hog Jesus for yourself alone, go and make disciples and tell them the good news - *Jesus Christ lives!*

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

JULY 2014													
S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
29	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							

## The Hymns We Sing

COURTESY OF THE CYBER HYMNAL™

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

### Jesus Paid It All

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/html/j/p/a/jpaidall.htm>

*"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow."*

Isaiah 1:18

**Words:** Elvina M. Hall, 1865.

**Music:** John T. Grape

I hear the Savior say,  
"Thy strength indeed is small;  
Child of weakness, watch and  
pray,  
Find in Me thine all in all."

#### Refrain

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim,  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

#### Refrain

And now complete in Him  
My robe His righteousness,  
Close sheltered 'neath His side,  
I am divinely blest.

#### Refrain

Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy power and Thine alone,  
Can change the leper's spots  
And melt the heart of stone.

#### Refrain

When from my dying bed  
My ransomed soul shall rise,  
"Jesus died my soul to save,"  
Shall rend the vaulted skies.

#### Refrain

And when before the throne  
I stand in Him complete,  
I'll lay my trophies down  
All down at Jesus' feet.

#### Refrain

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

### July 2014

July 20 8:45 a.m. 1st John 2:1-2 The Key to Holiness  
10:30 a.m. Sunday School  
July 25 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship  
July 27 8:45 a.m. Pending

## The Cost of Discipleship

### Convert, pay tax, or die, Islamic state warns Christians

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Islamist insurgents have issued an ultimatum to northern Iraq's dwindling Christian population to either convert to Islam, pay a religious levy or face death, according to a statement distributed in the militant-controlled city of Mosul.

The statement issued by the Islamic State, the al Qaeda offshoot which led last month's lightning assault to capture swathes of north Iraq, and seen by Reuters, said the ruling would come into effect on Saturday. It said Christians who wanted to remain in the "caliphate" that the Islamic State declared this month in parts of Iraq and Syria must agree to abide by terms of a "dhimma" contract - a historic practice under which non-Muslims were protected in Muslim lands in return for a special levy known as "jizya."

"We offer them three choices: Islam; the dhimma contract - involving payment of jizya; if they refuse this they will have nothing but the sword," the announcement said. A resident of Mosul said the statement, issued in the name of the Islamic State in Iraq's northern province of Nineveh, had been distributed on Thursday and read out in mosques.

It said Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, which the group has now named Caliph Ibrahim, had set a Saturday deadline for Christians who did not want to stay and live under those terms to "leave the borders of the Islamic Caliphate".

"After this date, there is nothing between us and them but the sword," it said.

The Nineveh decree echoes one that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the former name for the Islamic State, issued in the Syrian city of Raqqa in February, demanding that Christians pay the jizya levy in gold and curb displays of their faith in return for protection.

The concept of dhimma, governing non-Muslims living under Islamic rule, dates back to the early Islamic era in the seventh century, but was largely abolished during the Ottoman reforms of the mid-19th century. Mosul, once home to diverse faiths, had a Christian population of around 100,000 a decade ago, but waves of attacks on Christians since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein have seen those numbers collapse.

The resident of Mosul who saw the Islamic State announcement estimated the city's Christian population before last month's militant takeover at around 5,000. The vast bulk of those have since fled, leaving perhaps only 200 in the city, he said.

