

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM JULY 27, 2014

BY ELDER THOM RACHFORD, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Signs in the Heavens Part 2

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.



Paul is reminding us that no one has an excuse for not responding to God. It reminds me of students who claim they did not know an assignment was due even though the teacher put it on the board, reminded the class orally and even covered specifically elements to be included in the assignment. The student may claim, "I didn't hear you say anything about the assignment. Nobody told me personally. I had an ear problem so I didn't hear what you said." Those of you who are teachers or know teachers have probably heard many more excuses.

When it comes to the things of God, people have the same kinds of excuses. I can imagine the Great White throne judgment where those on trial will claim many excuses to justify their name not being in the Book of Life. I think the major excuse will be "no one told me." While it is the purpose of every believer to share the good news of reconciliation to the living God for everyone through Christ's payment for sin on the cross and relationship with Him; the Lord has revealed Himself exquisitely through the things He has made. One cannot look at the complexities of the human body or the intricacy of the universe without recognizing someone with the creative power far beyond man made all things.

So why do we have a problem with recognizing and then seeking a true relationship with Him? Just like the students, we do not "hear" because we choose to put our attention on ourselves, what we want, and when we want it. Our society reinforces our self-centeredness. How many commercials say 'get this because you deserve it.' How many times a day do we hear 'it is my right to have ...', you fill in the blank. Our government has decided people "need" certain things, so we give, for example, free cell phones and service - because everyone has the right to a cell phone.

The message who God is and His desire for relationship with people is still available today through the Bible, people, and radio and TV programs that proclaim the true gospel. Even if the government/society succeeds in outlawing Christian teaching or expression in any form, the things that God has made continue to reveal who He is so that there will be no excuse for not responding to Him.

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

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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/>

In the Sweet Bye and Bye

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/i/n/t/intsbab.htm>

In My Father's house there are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

John 14:2

Words: Sanford F. Benett, 1868. This song was sung in the Academy Award winning movie Sergeant York (1941).

Music: Sweet By and By, Joseph P. Webster

Mr. Webster, like many musicians, was of an exceedingly nervous and sensitive nature, and subject to periods of depression, in which he looked upon the dark side of all things in life. I had learned his peculiarities so well that on meeting him I could tell at a glance if he was melancholy, and had found that I could rouse him up by giving him a new song to work on.

He came into my place of business (in Elkhorn, Wisconsin), walked down to the stove, and turned his back on me without speaking. I was at my desk. Turning to him, I said, "Webster, what is the matter now?" "It's no matter," he replied, "it will be all right by and by." The idea of the hymn came me like a flash of sunlight, and I replied, "The Sweet By and By! Why would not that make a good hymn?" "Maybe it would," he said indifferently.

Turning to my desk I penned the words of the hymn as fast as I could write. I handed the words to Webster. As he read his eyes kindled, and stepping to the desk he began writing the notes. Taking his violin, he played the melody and then jotted down the notes of the chorus. It was not over thirty minutes from the time I took my pen to write the words before two friends with Webster and myself were singing the hymn.

— Sanford Fillmore Bennett (1836-1898)

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

Refrain

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

Refrain

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

Refrain

Today's Message

July 27 8:45 a.m. Elder Thom Rachford
Signs in the Heavens Part 2
Romans 1:20

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

The Cost of Discipleship

Victory! Meriam Ibrahim and her American family safe, free, and in Italy

[HTTP://ACLJ.ORG/](http://aclj.org/)

Meriam Ibrahim and her American family are now safe and free in Italy. After being under U.S. protection in the American Embassy in Khartoum for the last month, Meriam her two young American children Martin and Maya, and her American husband Daniel were flown out of

Sudan on an Italian government plane, escorted by Italian personnel.

This is a huge victory for religious liberty. Meriam, Martin, and Maya have gone from suffering on death row in a brutal prison because of Meriam's Christian faith to freedom in Italy.

It is believed that Meriam and her American family will be traveling to the U.S. in a matter of days, but today they are safe and free in Italy.

We are thankful for the Italian government's critical involvement in this case.

Fox News has more of her harrowing exit from Sudan:

Meriam Ibrahim, the Sudanese Christian woman who faced a death sentence for refusing to renounce her faith, has been flown to Italy on an Italian government jet, accompanied by that country's vice-minister for foreign affairs.

Reuters reported that Italian television broadcast images of Ibrahim, 27, arriving at Rome's Ciampino airport accompanied by her family and Italian politician Lapo Pistelli.

Earlier, Pistelli had posted a picture on his Facebook page depicting himself with Ibrahim and her two

children. The caption, translated from Italian, read "With Meriam, Maya, Martin and [Ibrahim's husband] Daniel, a few minutes from Rome. Mission accomplished."

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi was among those who greeted the plane, calling it "a day of celebration."

Meriam and her family later were greeted by Pope Francis in the Vatican City.



Prayers Answered!

