

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2015

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Jude 3-4

“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”



C.S. Lewis, more than anyone else in the 20th century, lived out the admonition of our passage today. Never before in my lifetime has this verse been more important for Christians to hear, consider, and heed. Note three elements in this verse that are essential to Jude's entreaty. First, Jude makes reference to a specific message with specific content, the "faith once and for all delivered" the foundation of "our common salvation." Second is the admonition to "contend earnestly" for that faith - to proclaim it, guard it, and defend it. Finally, Jude reminds us that it had been "delivered" to the saints - passed on from the disciples to the next generation in the church.

Currently, the Christian worldview is facing assault on multiple fronts. In the midst of this academic attack, there is an increasingly pervasive godlessness and a militant relativism in the culture. The 21st century began as an era of radical skepticism, especially in the area of morality and religion. As a result, the moral rulebook is being rewritten. Right has become wrong and wrong right.

In addition, there is an increasing hostility towards those who take Jesus seriously regarding the Great Commission. Jesus said he came, "To seek to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10), and "to call sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32). That was the way He described His own mission. Yet when we proclaim this message - the central message of Jesus - we court conflict. Indeed, to be faithful to Jesus's claim that He is the only Savior is increasingly considered an example of "spreading hate."

The key to contending for the faith - to surviving the spiritual onslaught of the 21st century - is to guard the Gospel. The key to that is found in two simple phrases. First, contend earnestly for that faith. That means we need to go back to the basics. Back to the Word as it has been entrusted to us; back to the faith once delivered by the Apostles. And second, entrust it to faithful disciples who will be able to teach others also. Guard the Gospel by continuing in the truth already revealed, then pass the baton. Proclaim the truth faithfully, guard it diligently, and pass it on carefully. That is how we contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

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

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<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/html/r/o/c/rockages.htm>

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/t/o/p/toplady.mid>

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer."

Psalm 18

Words: Augustus M. Toplady, 1776.

Music: Toplady Thomas Hastings, 1830

In the jubilee year of [Queen Victoria] embassies from the chief courts of the world came to do her honour. Among these was an embassy from the monarch of Madagascar. One of those in the embassy was a Hova, a man of years, dark skinned and intelligent, and desiring for his people's sake to make a good impression, he, in offering his congratulations recalled many incidents of his long journey around the Cape in a sailing vessel; and when he had told all he could recollect, he asked if it would be agreeable that he should sing – that he had one song in his heart that had whiled away many a weary hour in his pilgrimage through life. The expectation was that the venerable Hova would sing something heathenish and national – something social or convivial – but to the astonishment of all, he began in a thin sweet tenor:

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!**

He sang it through all its stanzas, each verse growing more subdued and tender. At the close there was profound, awkward silence, which was difficult to break, for some were affected to tears in seeing the coming back of seed sown on the waters in missionary faith and zeal. All were taken by surprise, little expecting to hear from the lips of the Hova on this grand occasion the sweetest of the songs of Zion. His name, says the reporter of the day, was as startling in length as his performance was surprising: Right Hon. Lord Rainiferongalarovo.

– From Duncan Morrison's *The Great Hymns of the Church*. Toronto, Canada: Hart & Company, 1890, pp. 95-6: .

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
[originally *When my eye-strings break in death*]
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

February 2015

Feb.15	8:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	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

FEBRUARY 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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

Slain American Kayla Mueller told parents 'a lot of fight left inside of me' in letter written July 4, 2014

FOX NEWS

Kayla Mueller wrote her family a heart-wrenching letter nearly a year ago, possibly from the bowels of a Raqqa, Syria, building that U.S. special forces raided on July 4, 2014, only to learn Mueller - and at least three other hostages who were later killed - had been moved days earlier.

"If you could say I have suffered at all throughout this whole experience it is only in knowing how much suffering I have put you all through," wrote Mueller, a 26-year-old aid worker from Arizona who was kidnapped in Syria by ISIS in August 2013.

"I have a lot of fight left inside of me. I am not breaking down - I will not give in no matter how long it takes," Mueller said in the newly released letter, believed to have been written in the spring of 2014. "I know you would want me to remain strong. That is exactly what I am doing. Do not fear for me, continue to pray as will I - by God's will we will be together soon."

Mueller's parents confirmed Tuesday their daughter died while in the hands of the terror group, though they did not say how or when she was killed. A source familiar with the communications told Fox News that the terror group sent Mueller's parents a photo, taken from the neck up, of their daughter to prove she was dead.

Mueller is one of four Americans to die while being held by Islamic State militants. Three other Americans — journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff, and aid worker Peter Kassig — were beheaded by the group.

"We are heartbroken to share that we've received confirmation that Kayla Jean Mueller has lost her life," Carl and Marsha Mueller, of Prescott, Ariz., said in a statement. "Kayla was a compassionate and devoted humanitarian. She dedicated the whole of her young life to helping those in need of freedom, justice, and peace."

The family received information from their daughter's ISIS captors over the weekend that

was authenticated, according to U.S. officials.

"The family received a private message from Kayla's ISIL captors containing additional information," National Security Council spokeswoman Bernadette Meehan said Tuesday. "Once this information was authenticated by the intelligence community, they concluded that Kayla was deceased."

ISIS claimed last week she was killed by a Jordanian airstrike, but offered no immediate evidence.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, said it is certain Mueller did not die in one of the Jordanian airstrikes. When asked Tuesday if there was any doubt who killed Mueller, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby replied, "No doubt. ISIL."

Images of children suffering in the early stages of Syria's ongoing civil war prompted Mueller to leave her home in Prescott, Ariz., in Dec. 2012, to work with the Danish Refugee Council and the humanitarian organization Support to Life to help refugees. According to a family spokesperson, Kayla found the work heartbreaking but compelling.

Mueller was captured on Aug. 4, 2013, in Aleppo, Syria — 10 days before her 25th birthday — while leaving a Spanish hospital staffed by the international humanitarian group Doctors without Borders.

According to an intelligence source, Mueller was kidnapped along with her Syrian boyfriend, who was let go days later. He went back to convince ISIS to free Mueller but was unsuccessful, the source told Fox News.

Jordan has been launching airstrikes against the extremist group in response to a video released this week that shows captive Jordanian pilot Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh being burned to death in a cage.

Al-Kaseasbeh, whose F-16 came down in December while conducting airstrikes as part of a campaign against the militants by a U.S.-led coalition, was believed to have been killed in early January.