

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM FEBRUARY 22, 2015

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Jude 5-7

“Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”



Apostasy (or falling away) always begins in the mind. These spirits are “deceitful” and they teach doctrines that sound biblical but are just slightly off. They are out to fool you in your thinking. But God’s people believe and know the truth. We need to be careful here. On one extreme, there is a wide movement in the American church that minimizes truth. This side says, “They will know we are Christians by our love,” and so they adopt a “peace at any cost” position that dilutes and ultimately destroys essential Christian truth. They emphasize tolerance and doctrinal diversity. If you speak out against error, this side accuses you of being unloving and divisive. But if you go down that road, you end up with the unbiblical view that truth doesn’t matter and that there is no such thing as sound doctrine.

On the other extreme, we can be so zealous for the truth that we shred relationships and end up falling into spiritual pride because we hold to “The Truth.” I get a newsletter from a man who attacks and separates himself from many well-known evangelicals because he finds errors in statements they have made in print or in taped messages. If you go far enough down that road, you end up in a church of one member, because you’ll never find another person who agrees with you on every minor point of doctrine. So you have to determine how serious a matter is and what the consequences will be if people follow this teaching.

You must be especially careful to guard yourself from wrong thinking when you’re going through a difficult trial. Satan comes along and sows doubts about God’s goodness: “If He were really good, He wouldn’t let this happen to you. It’s okay to be angry at God; He wasn’t faithful to you by letting this happen.” It’s in the context of trials that Peter tells us to humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand and then says, “Be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith” (1 Pet. 5:8-9). So, Satan is out to influence your thinking. Spiritual warfare involves the mind. But it never stops there.

To avoid falling away, we must persevere in God’s truth with thankful hearts. It’s not always easy, but even in times of trial, we need to affirm God’s goodness and thank Him for His many blessings.

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

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 (626) 287-6120 • PastorAndy@SunriseTC.org • www.SunriseTC.org

The Hymns We Sing

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

Abide With Me (Lyte)

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/a/b/i/abidewme.htm>
<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/ev/e/n/eventide.mid>

“They urged Him strongly, ‘Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.’”

Luke 24:29

Words: Henry F. Lyte (1793-1847) 1847. Lyte's daughter, Anna Maria Maxwell Hogg, wrote in the prefatory memoir to his *Remains* (London: Rivington, 1850):

The summer was passing away, and the month of September (that month in which he was once more to quit his native land), and each day seemed to have a special value as being one day nearer his departure. His family were surprised and almost alarmed at his announcing his intention of preaching once more to his people. His weakness, and the possible danger attending the effort, were urged to prevent it, but in vain. "It was better," as he used often playfully to say, when in comparative health, "to wear out than to rust out." He felt that he should be enabled to fulfill his wish, and feared not for the result. His expectation was well founded. He did preach, and amid the breathless attention of his hearers gave them the sermon on the Holy Communion...He afterwards assisted at the administration of the Holy Eucharist, and though necessarily much exhausted by the exertion and excitement of this effort, yet his friends had no reason to believe that it had been hurtful to him. In the evening of the same day he placed in the hands of a near and dear relative the little hymn, Abide with Me, with an air of his own composing, adapted to the words.

Music: Eventide William H. Monk, 1861 William H. Monk (1823-1889) Mrs. Monk described the setting:

This tune was written at a time of great sorrow-when together we watched, as we did daily, the glories of the setting sun. As the last golden ray faded, he took some paper and penciled that tune which has gone all over the earth.

Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;
The darkness thickens. Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me!

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me!

Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word;
But as Thou dwel'st with Thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free.
Come, not to sojourn, but abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings,
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea,
Come, friend of sinners, and then abide with me.

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile;
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me!

I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless:
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee!
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

February 2015

Feb. 22	8:45 a.m.	Jude verses 4 to 7
	10:30 a.m.	Digging Deeper in 2nd Hour
	12-8:00 p.m.	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

Christian florist found guilty of discrimination for declining gay wedding' could lose home, life savings

[HTTP://CHRISTIANNEWS.NET/](http://christiannews.net/)

KENNEWICK, Wash. - A florist from Washington is in jeopardy of losing her business, home and life savings after a judge ruled against her on Wednesday for declining to fulfill an order for a same-sex ceremony, but rather provided a referral for the regular customer.

As previously reported, Baronelle Stutzman of Arlene's Flowers in Richland was leveled with a lawsuit March 2012 by State Attorney General Bob Ferguson, who claimed that she violated the law by not fulfilling the order. Stutzman had been approached by one of her faithful customers, Robert Ingersoll, a homosexual, as he wanted her to supply the flowers for his upcoming ceremony with his partner, Curt. She states that she politely explained that she would not be able to help in regard to the event, but referred him to three other florists that may help.

I just took his hands and said, 'I'm sorry. I cannot do your wedding because of my relationship with Jesus Christ,'" Stutzman told reporters. But after Ingersoll decided to post on Facebook about the matter, controversy arose on both sides of the issue-both for and against Stutzman. The florist said that she received a number of threatening and angry comments.

"It blew way out of proportion," Stutzman explained. "I've had hate mail. I've had people that want to burn my building. I've had people that will never shop here again and [vow to] tell all their friends." Weeks later, Attorney General Bob Ferguson issued Stutzman a letter advising that she must accommodate homosexual ceremonies or be subject to a lawsuit and heavy fines. He included with his letter a form that offered Stutzman the opportunity to recant and agree to comply with the law. She refused, and was subsequently met with a discrimination suit.

But the Christian legal organization Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) contended that Ferguson's actions were inappropriate since he never received a complaint, but rather filed on his own volition. It also filed a motion asking that Ferguson and the ACLU-which filed a separate suit-be prohibited from attacking Stutzman on a personal level.

Last month, Benton County Superior

Court Judge Alex Eckstrom-while throwing out a charge that accused Stutzman of directing her business to violate the state's anti-discrimination laws-ruled that the florist may be held personally responsible for the incident. On Wednesday, Eckstrom granted summary judgment to Stutzman's opponents, agreeing that she had committed an act of discrimination. The court also ordered Stutzman to provide full service to same-sex ceremonies, which includes not only accepting the order, but also delivering to the homosexual celebration, and assisting with the specific arrangements and decoration on-site.

"The court somehow concluded that forcing Barronelle to create expression against her will does not violate her free speech and free exercise rights under the state and federal constitutions," said ADF Legal Counsel Jonathan Scruggs.

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