

A WORD ON WORSHIP

Review of Message from July 24, 2016

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Genesis 6:9

"These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God."

To be faithful as a Christian in an evil day, you must learn to stand alone. You will repeatedly face pressure to violate your Christian standards and go along with the crowd. As a Christian teenager, you're with some friends who are passing around a joint. What will you do when it comes to you? All the other kids are experimenting with sex and talking about their adventures. Will you go along with the crowd? Everyone has an illegal copy of an upcoming test. Will you join them in cheating?



Christian adults also face constant pressure to compromise their faith. At work, the boss expects you not to be totally honest in dealing with customers. On a business trip, your associates are all going to a porno movie and want you to join them. At family gatherings over the holidays, the rest of the family are gossiping about another family member. No one likes to be ridiculed or rejected. We all want to be liked and included. We don't want others to think that Christians are a bunch of prudes who can't enjoy life. So we're easily tempted to go along with the crowd rather than to stand alone for Jesus Christ. But if we yield, we dishonor God and lose our distinctive witness for our Savior.

Let me put it plainly: If you don't consistently spend time alone with God in His Word and in prayer, you don't have a walk with God! If you don't have a walk with God, you will not be able to stand alone as Noah did. You will be more conformed to this evil world than you are to Jesus Christ. Peter writes that just as the early world was destroyed by the flood, so "the present heavens and earth by [God's] word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:7). His conclusion is, "Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness" (3:11).

If you worked for a company that you knew was going to be dissolved by bankruptcy, your attitude toward that company would change. You wouldn't put your future hopes in it, because it has no future. If you heard that the government was going to shut down a bank because of insolvency, you wouldn't rush to invest your money in that bank. God has said that this evil world is doomed. He has promised "a new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). Like Noah, we must redirect everything in our lives - our time, our money, our goals - in light of God's warning of judgment and His promise of deliverance in Christ. We must stand alone in this evil day by walking with God.

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

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