

# THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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## **When The Sun Comes Up!**

**By Steve Niemeier**

**Psalm 113:3**

***“From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord’s name is to be praised.”***

There is nothing more invigorating to me than a sunrise! As it appears in its big orange color and then starts reflecting off of the morning dew it seems there is a glow about this great world that God created.

II Samuel 23:4 states:  
***“And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises, a morning without clouds, like the tender grass springing out of the earth, by clear shining after the rain.”***

These words bring to mind the beauty of the sunrise along with the beauty of being faithful to God even when rains fall.

We rise from our sleep to a fresh new day that God has given us. Yes, it is another gift

from God – I know there are so many wonderful gifts that He has bestowed on us that we sometimes just take them for granted. After all, how many sunrises have we seen? How many new days have we experienced? How many morning dews have glistened in our lifetime? So many that we cannot count – yet how many have we really thought about and enjoyed?

A new day brings new opportunities for us. Oh yes, we can constantly be stuck in our same old routines and become discouraged or lethargic about what we are doing. We can look upon a new day as just another day instead of a new start that God has granted us.

It seems our lives are fleeting before us and we have not enjoyed the sunrises as we should. We have not looked upon it as a beautiful gift from God. What will we do with this new day? Will we live it for the One who granted it to us? Or will we just go through our

motions of “living life” and taking for granted this one day God has blessed us with?

Jesus tells us in

Matthew 6:34 to not worry about tomorrow because this day – this one day we are living is all we can handle at one time. He uses the word trouble in describing the day we are living. Have you ever stopped and thought about why each day has its own trouble? Could it be that we approach each day with a carryover of the previous day and not with the thought of a new dawn – a new sunrise – a fresh day from God?

When troubles of this life surrounds us – when we have difficulty seeing the gifts that God has granted us – when we are blinded by the perils of this temporary life – then the blessings of God – even something as big and bright and beautiful as a sunrise can be hard to see!

One of the great blessings of being over 6000 miles away from home in Sierra Leone is the sunrise. It is refreshing to know that this gift from God is something that no matter where you are in this world – this gift is one that God allows all to open on a daily basis. It is a link – a reminder –

an encouragement – that God loves us and that He has granted us another day to live for Him no matter where we are.

At some point the sun will not rise for us any longer and the setting of the sun on our lives will end our opportunities. Do not let the sun go down on your life without fully appreciating the sunrises that God has given you!

### ***I Was Lost and You Were in a Hurry***

**Author Unknown**

I attended your services Sunday evening. You wouldn't remember me. I was there looking for something - I think I would have found it if you had not been in such a hurry. You sang hymns about a loving Lord. I felt a tight choking sensation, and my heart beat faster. Your preacher's message was thrilling. I realized I was lost and from the way he spoke, it seemed important to have a Savior.

The preacher finished his appeal and asked you to stand and sing another of those beautiful songs you know so well. I swallowed a lump in my throat and wished I knew the joy of which you sang. I was about to answer the call of the Gospel, when I heard a buzzing beside me. When I looked around, you were picking up toys and telling your children to get ready to leave. In front of me were

whisperers and gigglers. A couple had already headed for the door. The ushers rushed about stacking chairs and opening doors. Beside me, you were frowning at your watch as if time were running out.

Seeing what I saw, I didn't want to look anymore. My eyes burned, my throat hurt, my feet wouldn't walk down the aisle. I could see that you really didn't care. This salvation the preacher had been telling about was not as important to you as getting out "on time." I only wanted to get away. I waited until services were over and walked out among you - alone unnoticed - and lost. Lost, because you were in a hurry. Lost, because it appeared you didn't really care if I was saved.

**(EDITOR NOTE: Could this be one of our visitors that have attended with us here at Greenwood? Certainly a message for us to take to heart isn't it? SJN)**

## **Are They (We)**

### **Christians**

**By Robert Turner**

Someone once asked David Lipscomb if certain digressives of the day (using mechanical instruments of music in the worship, and doing the work of the church through human societies) were Christians. Here is his reply, taken from *Queries & Answers; Shepherd*; p. 77-ff.

"A follower of Christ is a Christian. One must take Christ as

his only Lawgiver, Ruler, Leader, and Governor; his Prophet (teacher), Priest (intercessor), and King (ruler). We must seek to think like Christ, to feel and purpose as Christ did, act as Christ acted, and in all things seek to follow Him.

The heart, the inner man, thinks, feels, purposes. Solomon says: "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." This means all the purposes and courses of life originate in and flow out from the heart. To follow Jesus, we must be like him in heart.

The highest desire of Jesus was to do the will of his Father. (**Jn. 6:38; 5:30; Lu. 22:42**) The fundamental, ruling desire of every child of God is to do the will of God, to subjugate his own will to the will of God in all things. The heart, then, that desires to change the law and order of God in anything is not right in the sight of God, no matter how kind and charitable he be.

A man's heart may be perfect, and yet he fall into sin. David was a man after God's own heart, yet fell into grievous sin. "The heart of Asa was perfect all his days," yet he fell into sin that brought the punishment of God upon him. It means that, while the desire and purposes of the heart are to serve God, the fleshly appetites and passions may tempt a man into sin. There are two classes of sins — one, the sin of the spirit, or heart, that sets aside

purposely the law of God; the other, the sin of the flesh, that is drawn into sin contrary to the desires of the heart. The later sin, if it is persisted in, overcomes and perverts the spirit, or heart, and drags the man into willful sin. The sin of the heart is the presumptuous sin. It consciously and purposely sets aside the law of God and substitutes something that the person thinks will do better or is more effective in honoring God and saving men. The motive of doing good may prompt it. But it is presumption that dares to think man can improve on the appointments of God.

Men who consciously change, or modify, add to or take from, the law of God in the slightest particulars are not Christians; it is misleading to call them so. Churches that change add to, or take from the commandments of God are not churches of Christ; it is sinful to so call them. He who is not for God in such issues is against him. Be true to God.”

Lipscomb hit the core of the matter when he centered upon the heart. Objectors may say a sincere man, desirous of serving God, could misunderstand his word; but such a one would continue to study, welcome assistance, and draw closer and closer to truth.

**Our Next Gospel Meeting**  
**March 3-8, 2013 David Lanius**

**Invite Night – October 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**“Am I Really Making a**  
**Difference?”**