

## GROWING TOWARDS LIFE

Michael Pickford

One day, while watering a tree, I began to think about that tree. It depends on the sun and the rain for life, both of which come down from above. It then occurred to me that trees grow upward. They reach out towards the sky, which is the source of two things which sustain their life: sun and rain. They are literally growing towards life.

What about Christians? Doesn't the source of our spiritual life come down from above? In fact, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from **above**, and **comes down** from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

Are we stretching and growing towards the source of life?

Paul said to Christians, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are **above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1).

Trees thrive and live and are capable of spreading their seed because they grow upwards towards the source of their sustenance.

Christians will thrive and live and spread their seed and multiply only by growing upwards towards the source of their sustenance. This is accomplished by a regular diet of God's word combined with the spiritual exercise of applying it in our lives. What about you? Are you growing towards life? 

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



## COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Children's Class, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 5:30 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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## WHAT'S IN YOUR HOUSE?

Michael Pickford

We're told that Hezekiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord (2 Kings 18:3). But he made a serious mistake. After he had been healed by God, the king of Babylon sent an envoy to visit him. Hezekiah showed them everything from the treasures to the stores of food. "There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them" (2 Kings 20:13). This was a mistake, as sharing all this made them vulnerable to the enemy. Isaiah came to rebuke him for his grievous error. Isaiah said "What have they seen in your house?" -2 Kings 20:15. This is a good question for us. What do folks see in our house?

Your Family. What does your family see in your house? Do the children see the parents being hypocrites? Do they see them go to church on Sunday but live lives through the week that contradict things taught there? Do they see an unloving husband and wife who constantly bicker, argue and fight? (Ephesians 5:22-33). Or do they see parents teaching them discipline and bringing them up in the training and admonition of the Lord? (Ephesians 6:1-4). What do they see in your house?

Your Friends. What do your friends see? Do they know your home to be a place of hospitality? Is it clear to them that as a child of God you are truly "Given to hospitality?" (Romans 12:13). Do folks know you to be a family that likes to have others over for an occasional meal, or to open up the home for other activities? If they came to your house, would they find regular bible study and prayer? Do you have the reputation on your block of being good people, good neighbors, concerned and caring? What do they see in your house?

Your Father. We all know that nothing can be hidden from the Lord. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3). "All things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13). Even when the doors are shut, blinds closed, and curtains drawn, God knows what we're doing in our homes. He knows if we're watching that seedy sit-com or that morally depraved movie. He knows if we spend time with his word or not. He knows if we're praying regularly. He knows how we really treat our spouses and our children. What does God see in your house? 

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## SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### Loving The Lord

Introduction:

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

## IN

Michael Pickford

Have you ever noticed that God often places His blessings “in” something?

The tree of life was located in the garden, and as long as Adam and Eve remained there, they could eat of it and live forever. The blessing was “in” the garden, but due to sin, God drove them “out of the garden” (Genesis 3:23).

God told Noah and His family to go “into” the ark, and they did so (Genesis 7:9). Those outside the ark all drowned, just as Noah and his family would have had they not been “in” the ark. Again, the blessing of salvation was “in” something – An Ark!

In order to avoid being destroyed, the Israelites were to place blood on the lintel and doorposts, and then remain “in” the house. If any first born children were found on the outside of the house they would die (Exodus 12:13, 22). Again, the blessing of salvation was “in” something – A House!

If someone were to accidentally kill another, they were to flee to a city of refuge in order to escape the avenger (Numbers 35:9-34; Joshua

20:1-9). He was to remain within the city. As long as he was “in” the city, the avenger could not kill him. But if he left the city’s boundaries, he could be slain by the avenger. Again, the blessing of salvation was “in” something – A City!

Paul was on a ship as a slave being transferred to Rome (Acts 27:13-38). There was a great storm, the ship was breaking up, and those aboard were about to jump off and try to swim for shore. But Paul, speaking with directions from God, told them that if everyone didn’t remain “in” the ship, no one could be saved (Vs. 31). This time, the blessing of salvation was “in” a ship.

The Garden, the ark, a house, a city, and a ship; are you beginning to see a pattern? What about eternal salvation? You guessed it. It is also “in” something. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:10 about the “*salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*” Salvation is “in” Christ! How does one get “in” Christ? Easy, “*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*” (Galatians 3:27). Have you been baptized? Are you “IN?” 

### THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Someone once said, “The hardest thing to keep is quiet.” Abraham Lincoln is credited with saying “It is better to be silent and be considered a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.” There are some things we must speak up about – The Gospel, Others’ sins, etc. But often silence is the best. We have two ears and one mouth, let’s listen and learn. “Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.” –Prov. 17:28



### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Sam Miller  
Reading: 2 Samuel 22:1-4
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord’s Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....Chris Meade  
Serve.....Frank Anderson

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
  - Lord’s Table.....Lynn Buttrey
- #### Wednesday Evening
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
  - Invitation.....Ben Green

**Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!**

### GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

**Obey Today!**