

## BACK ON TRACK

Michael Pickford

When I was a child my brother and I loved to play with our toy race track. We would sit in amazement and delight while the cars whizzed around the plastic roadway at dangerously high speeds.

We each had a control for our own car so could therefore control the speed. Whenever the car was about to round a curve, it was imperative to let up on the acceleration so the car wouldn't tumble off the track. When this happened, we would carefully pick it up and place it back on the track.

Looking back on this, I think of how we Christians can sometimes stumble off the track. We are running a race, no

doubt! But if we're not careful; if we don't pace ourselves correctly; if we fail to recognize the danger signs, we too can stumble off the right path.

Mercifully, we have a patient and loving Father in heaven who will forgive us. If we repent, confess, and pray (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:6-9) God will tenderly pick us up and place us back on track. But this takes humility, thus James says "*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up*" (James 4:10).

*"He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps"* (Psalm 40:2). 

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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## DESIGN FOR DISCIPLINE

Michael Pickford

In Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus gives us a simple pattern for what we often call "church discipline." In the pattern, we find a.....

Private Confrontation. "*...if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother...*" (Matthew 18:15). We often do the opposite by becoming gossip mills about what "So and so" did to me. The last thing we do, if we do it at all, is what the Lord said to do first - Go speak with him alone. If it settles the matter, the matter is settled, seal your lips! Approach him with humility, meekness and concern with hopes of saving his soul (Galatians 6:1; Luke 17:3).

Paired Confirmation. What if your private rebuke doesn't work? "*...take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established'*" (Matthew 18:16). Your hope is that he might confess, repent and receive forgiveness (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9). But if this doesn't happen, you have witnesses for when you follow the next step the Lord gives.

Public Commission. If he still doesn't repent, "*...tell it to the church*"

(Matthew 18:17). The church has an obligation to confirm the sin, then issue a first and second admonition (Titus 3:10). This is often done by sending some spiritually strong men to speak with the sinner (Galatians 6:1) and/or by way of letters of exhortation from the church. Again, the hope is for the sinner to repent, but if this doesn't occur the church is to "*...let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector*" (Matthew 18:17). Jews had no social dealings with these two classes. Once the church (as a church) publically delivers "*such a one to Satan*" (1 Corinthians 5:5), each individual member has the responsibility to cut off all social activities with them. No more hunting, fishing and golfing together. No more Friday nights of dinner and cards, etc. Paul said "*Not even to eat with such a person*" (1 Corinthians 5:11). The hope is to "Shame" them into realizing the significance of their sin so perhaps they will return to the Lord (2 Thessalonians 3:14). The Lord doesn't teach "Shunning" (e.g. walking the other way when we see them at the grocery store). We continue to try and talk with them, send cards, etc. in order to encourage them to repent (2 Thessalonians 2:15) and come back to the Lord. 

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## SERMON NOTES

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

### God's People Depicted

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

# HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Michael Pickford

Jesus said "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled*" (Matthew 5:6). A few years ago I saw something I've seen many times over the years. It's nothing new; in fact, most of you are very familiar with the same situation. My little niece began to cry. Was she tired? Was she hurting? NO. She was hungry! As soon as she saw her mother pull out her bottle she got a smile on her face and began to reach for it. But my sister-in-law had some trouble getting the cap off the bottle, so the baby began to cry again. Why? Because she strongly desired that milk!

This reminds me of a story my mom likes telling from time to time. When I was a child and eating baby food from a jar, she would spoon feed it to me as all mothers do. However, it seemed she couldn't feed it to me fast enough and I would scream out between each bite! (Things haven't changed much huh? smile). Why did I scream? Because I had a strong desire for the food that was in that jar.

Think about that baby crying for

her bottle; think about me screaming for the next bite; if you will get these mental images in your mind, you will get the picture in your mind's eye of how Jesus says we should desire spiritual food. Peter drew the same picture when he wrote, "*As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*" (1 Peter 2:2). Do we really desire Bible study this much? Do we yearn so strongly for another taste of the word, for more spiritual knowledge, that we get upset when we don't get to study it daily (Acts 17:11)? If not, we need to get with it! Paul commanded that we "*Understand what the will of the Lord is*" (Ephesians 5:17). This takes study!

If babies lacked the desire for their bottle and food they would refuse it and die. If Christians don't develop a strong desire for more knowledge of the truths found in God's holy word, they will die spiritually! Loving the truth leads to learning the truth, and this will equip us to teach others and avoid sin and error (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10). 🔍

### JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT!

At a civic meeting a "Woman of society" tried to speak with a "Chinese-looking" man sitting across from her. She said "Like-ee soup-ee?" The man said nothing. Moments later, the man got up to give a speech. He spoke in perfect English for twenty-five minutes with no hint of an accent. After sitting down again, he asked the woman, "Like-ee speech-ee?" We often draw the wrong conclusion about folk's hearts by looking only to their appearance. This often keeps us from trying to share the Gospel with them. Jesus said "*Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment*" (John 7:24). -MP



Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....John Nelson  
Reading: Acts 26:24-28
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....Robert Johnson  
Serve.....Chris Meade

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

##### Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

**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!**