

ACTION FIGURES

Michael Pickford

When I was a boy, soon after the release of Star Wars, action figures began to be sold in the stores, and we were anxious to collect them all. They were made to look just like the characters they represented from the Star Wars movie.

Is there a sense in which we, as children of God, are action figures ourselves? Paul wrote, *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10). To Titus, he adds, *“who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own*

special people, zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14). “Do-Nothing Christianity” did not originate in the mind of God. Mere pew-fillers will no more enter into God’s Heaven than adulterers. Disciples of Christ were created in Christ for a purpose – to serve! To Work!

Some “Christians” are as lifeless and motionless as those little plastic Star Wars “action figures” I played with years ago. We are not called to laziness, but to Labor. We are not called to slothfulness, but to service! We are not called to idleness, but to involvement! Let’s be interested and active in the Lord’s kingdom – the church. 🔍

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
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Children’s Class, 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5:30 pm
- 5th Sunday Men’s Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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GOSPEL MEETING

Michael Pickford

A Gospel Meeting is a special series of lessons hosted by a local church in a particular area. Generally, a visiting preacher from out of town does the preaching. Sometimes, the preaching is done by several different preachers. Many formats are chosen by different churches to use to conduct their meetings. Our upcoming meeting will run from Sunday through Friday. The name is derived from the activity; we **meet** together to proclaim the **Gospel**. Our purpose in this Gospel Meeting is two-fold: (1) The edification, exhortation, and encouragement of the saints (Eph. 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:24, 25). (2) To teach the Gospel to those who are not members of the Lord’s church (1 Thess. 1:8). We can help ensure the success of our Gospel Meeting by...

Praying. *“Pray without ceasing...”* (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Pray for the preacher conducting the meeting. Pray for the members that they will have health and desire to attend all of the services, without letting worldly events get in the way. Pray that parents will teach their children an essential lesson by showing them the things of God are more important than even important things in this life. Pray for yourself

that you may have and make opportunities to invite people to the services, etc.

Planning. Much of the success of a Gospel meeting lies in the attendance of the local members. Don’t plan things that will keep you out of town during the meeting. We need you here! When you’re absent, two things can happen. (1) Members are discouraged by smaller numbers. When I come to services and very few of the members are there, my heart sinks; but when there is a good crowd, my heart is encouraged. (2) I have seen incidents where people visited from the community, and the member who invited them wasn’t even there at that service! There are emergencies and other things that may be unavoidable; but other than these, we really need to plan to be at all of the services of the Gospel Meeting (Matt 6:33).

Preparing. We can prepare by inviting people to the services. Use the prepared flyers to distribute. If you need more, we can make as many as you can use. See the Bulletin Board for ideas on how to distribute these flyers throughout the community! Let’s be diligent to ensure success in this Gospel Meeting! 🔍

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www.defendthegospel.com

THE LAST DAYS

Michael Pickford

Some would have us believe the last days have only recently come upon us, while others claim they will begin in the near future. What does the Bible say?

There are three major divisions (or, dispensations) in the history of man. During the Patriarchal Age God dealt directly with the heads of families; like with Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Etc. The Mosaic Age began when God gave the Law of Moses to Israel. Jesus Himself lived under this dispensation. The Messianic or Christian Age is referred to in the Bible as the "last days."

The Last days began at Pentecost (Acts 2) when the apostles were gathered in Jerusalem and the Holy Spirit came upon them as Jesus had promised (Jn. 16:13; Acts 1:8). A visible sign of this came in the form of tongues of fire which sat upon each of them. The apostles began to speak in languages they had never learned. "Devout men, from every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5). began to ask among themselves, "whatever could this mean?" (Acts 2:12). Peter explained, "...this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God..." (vs. 14). This was the beginning of the "last days" as prophesied by Joel.

We have been living in the last days since that Pentecost almost two thousand years ago. This means we are now living under the direction of Christ and His Gospel! "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son" (Heb. 1:1, 2). It also means we must deal with false teachers, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons..." (1 Tim. 4:1). These can be perilous times, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come..." (2 Tim. 3:1-9). Peter wrote, "Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts..." (2 Pet. 3:3).

One could think we are living in the worst time of human history. Ironically, however, this is the best time of all! We live under a time when the resurrection of Christ and the forgiveness of sins are a confirmed historical fact. What a blessing! And remember, as we struggle through all the trouble of the last days, Jesus has promised to be with us until the end of this age (Matt. 28:20).

GETTING IN THE WAY

Do some folks seem to constantly be in the way? I want to exhort everyone who hasn't done so to get in the Way! Luke referred to the truth of the Gospel as "The Way" (Acts 9:2; 19:9; 23; 22:4). It is indeed the way to salvation (Acts 16:17; Romans 1:16). Are you in the Way? If not, believe the Gospel (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 2:38), confess your faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16). Get and stay in The Way! (Revelation 2:10).



SERMON NOTES

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

Modest Apparel

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....John Nelson
Reading: 1 Timothy 2:8-12
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....Chris Meade
Serve.....Robert Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Todd

Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- 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!