

## PARTIALITY

Michael Pickford

The Proverbs writer said, “It is not good to show partiality in judgment” (Proverbs 24:23). James also addresses the issue of favoritism (James 2:1-6).

Jesus offers salvation to all men who would come to him repenting and obeying (1 John 2:1-2; Heb 5:8-9). It is not for us to judge, based upon Physical appearances, who may or may not accept the soul-saving Gospel. Jesus said “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment” (John 7:24).

God chose the field; it’s the world! It is our responsibility to simply scatter the seed (Acts 8:1-4). Don’t be discriminate about who you share the

Gospel with!

Occasionally, a church will withhold discipline to the wealthy and powerful while quickly withdrawing from the poor and unattractive. This is sinful and unjust. All in God’s kingdom must be treated with the same Gospel. A person’s wealth and social standing should never impede the action of scripturally based discipline.

The church at Corinth failed to discipline a sinful brother and Paul rebuked them. He instructed them to “Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved...” (1 Corinthians 5:5). Let not prejudice be named among us!

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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## SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND WORLD

Michael Pickford

We hear a lot about separation of church and state; but what about separation of church and world? It seems that many churches have let the influence of the world enter in full force. And what about individual Christians? Consider 1 John 2:15-17 and note some important things about the world ...

The World is There. 1 John 2:15 speaks about the reality of the world around us. The world is real; the world exists; the world is all around us; the world is there. God has placed us in this world and we are to live in it, but not of it. We are not to love the world itself. John isn’t speaking of the people of the world. Certainly we should love everyone, even our enemies (Matthew 5:44). God so loved the world (people). But we are not to love the world itself; that is, we are not to become too attached to this world and get too comfortable here. We must remember that our true citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). Further, we are not to love the things in the world; material things. They can take our hearts captive and deceive us, leading us away from the Lord. Friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4).

The World is Tempting. 1 John 2:16 speaks of these temptations. The lust of the eyes and of the flesh, along with the pride of life has caused the downfall of many. Some sins are more alluring to some than others. But be sure that Satan has enough influence out there to offer something for everyone. We must strive to separate ourselves from tempting situations. We cannot go out of the world (1 Corinthians 5:10), but we can use some wisdom and proper judgment as to how and where we spend our time. Flee fornication, idolatry, youthful lusts, and the love of money (1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:14; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22).

The World is Temporary. 1 John 2:17 teaches us this. Whatever it is, if you can lay your eyes on it, kiss it goodbye. This world and everything in it will be burned up in the last day (2 Peter 3:10). Don’t be so foolish as to allow something temporary to earn your focus and divert your attention away from the invisible eternal things. We’re interested in value. Well, this world offers nothing of eternal value, but heaven holds all things valuable. So be careful to “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2).

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# TRUSTING GOD

Michael Pickford

In our society of broken promises and rank deception, it seems to be getting more and more difficult to trust anyone. This lack of trust is often shown towards doctors, lawyers, and even spouses at times. Because of scandals and hypocrisy many have a hard time trusting a president or even a preacher. It's sad because there are still many good, honest people in all of these categories who are often distrusted due to the deception of some of their peers. But when it comes to God, He can be fully trusted at all times.

God cannot lie (Titus 1:2) and He has certainly made Himself trustworthy by keeping countless promises down through the ages. He promised to send His Son into the world to conquer Satan and sin in our lives (Genesis 3:14-15). This promise has been fulfilled, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). God promises guidance to the lost, comfort to the broken-hearted, safety to the fainthearted, happiness for those who are sad, satisfaction to those who can't find fulfillment in this old world, an ear for the prayers of the faithful, salvation to the obedient, and heaven for the

saved. What wonderful promises which God fulfills each day to thousands across the globe! While it's hard to trust certain men, God can always be depended upon.

It is also essential to trust in the word of God – the Bible! Paul wrote, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God has given us all things which pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). When it comes to doctrine we don't need the creed books of men. When it comes to reproof we don't need the catechisms and discipline books of men. When it comes to correction we don't need the pope, synods or conferences (Matthew 15:8-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-4). All we need is the word of God! Those who write and follow religious creed books are showing a great deal of distrust in God and His eternal and complete word.

Never doubt the complete trustworthiness of God and His indestructible word (1 Peter 1:23). Your soul depends on it! 🗝️

## THE CAPTAIN OF OUR FAITH

Regardless of how wise, capable and knowledgeable you are, before you leave the harbor, you'd better make sure the captain is on board. How many of us leave our house each morning into the dangerous seas of the market, the workplace, etc and forget to take Jesus with us? The Christian life is not confined to the privacy of our homes and churches. Jesus is the captain of our entire world. It is only in Him that we find the strength and wisdom to navigate successfully through daily temptations (Philippians 4:13).



## SERMON NOTES

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

### The Reality of Hell

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Kenny Todd
- Bible Reading by.....John Nelson  
Reading: Hebrews 10:35-39
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Robert Johnson
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Ben Reagh  
Serve.....Chris Meade  
Serve.....Cory Klinebriel
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table.....Ben Reagh

##### 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!**