

## IN ALL THINGS, MODERATION?

Michael Pickford

This phrase regarding moderation has been quoted many times. I suppose it is beneficial in a limited sense. But I fear some approach their own service to Christ with this philosophy in mind.

Whether speaking of good deeds or bad ones, we should never approach Christianity with the concept of “In all things, moderation.” For example, it is never acceptable to do wicked things moderately. Just one drink? Just a couple of cigarettes a day? Just a few white lies? Just a slight amount of cheating on the tax form? Just a few “Cuss” words? The Bible says “Abhor what is evil...” and “Abstain from every form of evil” (Romans 12:9;

1 Thessalonians 5:22).

What about the good things? Surely we should not approach prayer in moderation when the Bible says “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). And what about Bible study – Moderation? See Acts 17:11. How do you approach attendance of church services, moderation? See Hebrews 10:25). And what of those good works like visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, teaching the lost, etc? Christ shed His blood for us that we might be “Zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14).

We have not been called to moderation, but to holy zeal! 🔍

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!**



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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## GOING TO HEAVEN ON GOOD LOOKS

Michael Pickford

Long ago someone came up with the phrase “You can't go to heaven on your good looks.” Let's change things around a bit and insist that the only way one can go to heaven is by his good looks. In order for one to go to heaven, he must take a good look at the...

**Pain.** Jesus placed great emphasis upon the fact that before one chooses to follow Him, he should count the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:25-33). Great sacrifices must be made. There may be persecutions to arise “Because of the word” (Matthew 13:21). We have bad things happen to us just by virtue of living in a sin cursed world; but worse things can happen when we become Christians. The health and wealth preachers of our day are wrong, Paul wrote “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).

**Promises.** But on the other side of the coin, there are the blessings; blessings that are of such a rich nature that they cannot be compared with any other. These promises of God make the pain worth it (Romans 8:18). As Christians, we have the privilege of prayer, the comfort of God's word,

the blessing of those of like precious faith, etc.

But God's grandest promise is that of eternal life (Titus 1:1-2). There are two places I know of in the New Testament which state that it is impossible for God to lie, and in both of these passages it is eternal life under discussion (Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:1-2).

**Pattern.** If one hopes to make it heaven one day, he must take a good look at the pattern God has given in His word – His plan of salvation. I'm speaking here of man's part. Too many have had their eyes diverted by false man-made plans of salvation.

But take a good look at scripture! Faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17). One must then believe Jesus to be God's Son (John 8:24). One must then be willing to repent of his sins (Acts 2:38), confess his faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10) and be baptized unto salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16). This pattern is the only true pattern for becoming a son of God (Galatians 3:26-27).

One must then remain faithful until death to finally be rewarded with heaven (Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 2:1; 3:14). Take a good look! 🔍

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# GOOD LUCK CHARMS

Michael Pickford

There are many items in life which are “innocently” considered by some to be “Good luck charms.” People will rub a rabbit’s foot, search for four leaf clovers, hang horse shoes over doors, cross out black cats, avoid walking under ladders, etc; all in hopes that good things will come their way as a result; or of avoiding bad things happening. But are these things really so innocent?

Let’s think this through logically for a moment. For example, when I rub a rabbit’s foot in hopes that it will make good things happen in my life, do I believe there is some sort of supernatural power (other than God) inherent in that rabbit’s foot that will cause good things to come my way? Does God’s word teach me that rubbing a rabbit’s foot will bring me good things? In reality, those who do this have made that rabbit’s foot an idol, a false God. If good things come into my life, from where did they come? James gives us the answer, “*Every good gift*

*and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...*” (James 1:17). Now if EVERY good gift comes from God, what is left for the rabbit’s foot to provide?

Don’t seek to put a rabbit’s foot in the place of God! That’s idolatry! We’re not dealing here with a harmless practice; we’re dealing with modern day idolatry. If I have needs, I don’t put my hope in a horse shoe; I don’t seek rewards from a rabbit’s foot, and I don’t place my confidence in a clover! I put my faith in the Father! It is God who has promised to provide me with all that I need, if I would but ask (Matthew 7:7-13).

So when you’re in need, when you want good things in your life, don’t rub a rabbit’s foot, hang a horse shoe, or clip a clover; go to God, who loves you and wants to provide you with good things (Matthew 6:25-34). This alone is where our confidence must lie (1 John 5:14). 

## SPIRITUAL “HOLLERIN’”

There’s an old saying in advertising, “He who has a thing to sell and goes and whispers in a well is not as apt to get the dollars as he who climbs a tree and hollers.” Jesus spoke of preaching on the housetops (Matthew 10:27). Do we keep our faith safely quiet from our friends, co-workers, etc? Or are we a hollerin’? Those in Acts 8 had their lives threatened because of their faith, yet they went ahead and went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4). Paul wanted folks to pray that his mouth may be opened for the Gospel (Ephesians 6:19). Souls are lost, the Gospel is the key; you have it, holler it! -MP



## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

Introduction:

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Frank Anderson  
Reading: Hebrews 3:12-15
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord’s Table:  
Lead.....Ben Green  
Serve.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....Chris Meade
- Closing Prayer.....Robert Johnson

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Lord’s Table.....Ben Green

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

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!