

SPIRITUAL GRAVITATIONAL FORCE

Michael Pickford

I was somewhat fascinated with magnets when I was a young boy. It was curious to me how you could put two magnets close to one another and they would just draw right up together. On the other hand, if turned another way, gravitational force would actually cause them to push away from or repel one another.

This latter reaction reminds me of our lives as Christians. Good should represent one magnet while evil represents the other, and like the magnets, we should force them to push away from one another in our lives. You see, being a faithful Christian doesn't just involve fleeing evil, but

also pursuing good.

Notice some passages of scripture which reflect this repelling notion. "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22). "Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it" (1 Peter 3:11). "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness" (1 Timothy 6:11). And of course, "Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9).

Is the spiritual gravitational force alive and well in your 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
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

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

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IN GOD'S HOUSE

Michael Pickford

Paul refers to the church as the "House of God" (1 Timothy 3:15) and the "Household of God" (Ephesians 2:19). In God's house, the church, there is the concept of...

Saving Mercy. To be in the church is to be in Christ, for the church is His body (Ephesians 1:22-23). To be in Christ is to be saved (2 Timothy 2:10). We are told that God delights in mercy, and through His compassion, He will cast our sins into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:18-19). This is for the remnant of His heritage, the church. God's plan has always been to save those who entered the church through obedience (Ephesians 1:11). We enter Christ's body, the church, the house of God through baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27).

Specific Membership. Upon our baptism God adds us to the universal body of the saved, the church, His house (Acts 2:47); but we must then seek to join ourselves to a local body (Acts 9:26). If there no such thing as placing membership with a local church, then how can there be a local church? The elders are to oversee the flock of God which is among them (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4); but how

can they do this if they don't know who the flock is? If they are to be responsible for the souls of the church they oversee, they must know who these souls are (Hebrews 13:17). Further, the entire concept of church discipline is reliant upon the concept of placing membership with a local body (1 Corinthians 5).

Spiritual Movement. If a plant isn't growing it's dying. The same is true spiritually. A church that isn't growing is dying. The Lord's church is to be making spiritual progress. It is to be constantly moving forward spiritually. There are many churches of Christ that have decided to make a more worldly type of progress. They have given in to the social gospel. Romans 1:16 tells us that the Gospel is God's power unto salvation. It is to be the drawing power to bring people to Christ. But they have abandoned this and have decided to use food, fun, frolic and a host of other unscriptural means in order to make progress. This isn't a spiritual movement, it's a scriptural massacre. The church is to sound forth the Gospel in order to save the lost and edify the saints (Ephesians 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:8) 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

THINGS TO FLEE

Michael Pickford

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary says that to flee is to run away; often from danger or evil. God, in His love and concern, often warns Christians to flee those things which could bring danger or evil into our spiritual lives.

"Flee sexual Immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18). Here is an admonition that is very relevant in our day. Unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and other woes brought on by this sin run rampant in our great nation. Homosexuality is more accepted and seems to be on the rise. Rapes and other sex-related crimes continue to march forward. When will it all stop? When folks start listening to God and fleeing sexual immorality. Don't let the world influence you in this matter. Like Joseph, flee sexual immorality! (Genesis 39:8-12)

"Flee also youthful lusts" (2 Timothy 2:22). This is yet another relevant admonition. There is much access these days to things which can engender youthful lusts. We must flee, shun, and avoid these things at all costs! Dirty magazines, pornographic videos on tape, DVD or the internet all serve to entice lusts within those who view. Dirty talk, erotic conversations,

etc do the same. Many types of modern dance often done right on the floors of our high school gyms during proms involve bodily movements and unchaste handling between males and females. All of these things are condemned with the Greek word *aselgeia* which is translated as lewdness, lasciviousness, or licentiousness in Galatians 5:19-21 as a work of the flesh which will keep one out of heaven. Flee these things!

"Flee from idolatry" (1 Corinthians 10:14). Is this relevant to modern day America? Absolutely! You see, idolatry is more than just bowing down to a piece of wood or a bit of stone. It's more than just believing in other gods outside of the one true and living God. Paul said that covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). In reality, an idol can be anything in our life upon which we place more emphasis and importance than serving God. It could be money. It could be any pursuit in life which in and of itself is good and acceptable, but we have allowed it to hinder our service to God; sporting events, outdoor trips, clubs, organizations, and the list goes on. Do you have an idol in your life? Flee from it! ☞

LOVING THE "UNLOVABLE"

If we only love the people who are "Lovable," we may love very few people. It seems natural to love and do good for our family, friends, etc. But what about the stranger, the murderer, the rapist? What about the rude teller, the slow waiter, or that loud mouth guy sitting behind us at the ballgame? Jesus calls us to a higher standard of love than what seems to "come natural" to us. He said "Love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44) and He set the perfect example by loving us when we were unlovable (Romans 5:6-9). -MP



SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY DAILY! Acts 17:11

Traditions

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Tony Jenkins
Reading: Matthew 15:3-9
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....John Nelson
Serve.....Robert Johnson
Serve.....Chris Meade
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table.....John Nelson

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!