

## SPIRITUAL MALPRACTICE

Michael Pickford

Malpractice is “The failure of a professional person, as a physician or lawyer, to render proper services through reprehensible ignorance or negligence or through criminal intent, esp. when injury or loss follows.”

Many “Religious leaders” practice spiritual malpractice. Some teach religious error because of their ignorance of the Bible. Their main priority involves “*Peddling the word of God*” (2 Corinthians 2:17) for the purpose of serving, not Jesus, but “Their own belly” (Rom 16:17-18). Being ignorant and unlearned of scripture, they “twist” it “to their own destruction” (2 Pet 3:16).

What about criminal intent? What can be more criminal than teaching someone a distorted version of the Gospel, thus causing them to lose their souls? The Gospel is full of hard sayings which call for radical changes in one’s lifestyle. False teachers distort these passages to make the Gospel more appealing to the worldly minded. “Injury” and “loss follows” because those deceived will lose their souls! Those guilty of spiritual malpractice will also “Be accursed” (Gal 1:8-9).

Protect yourself against spiritual malpractice by “searching the scriptures daily” to see if the things you are being taught are true (Acts 17:11).

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



- [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
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 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.

## 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

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

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

Volume 8, Number 06

February 05, 2012

## WHEN I BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Michael Pickford

According to the Bible, one becomes a Christian (disciple of Christ, Acts 11:26) by hearing the Gospel (Romans 10:17), believing Jesus to be God’s Son (Mark 16:16), repenting of sin (Acts 2:38), confessing his faith (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). When I become a Christian, I need to concern myself with...

**The Christ I’ll Share.** As a child of God, I have the responsibility to share the Gospel of Christ with others. Many shirk this responsibility. We are always anxious to share good news with others. What better news is there than that eternal salvation has been made available to all men (Titus 2:11)? In fact, the word “Gospel” means “Good news.” Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). There are plenty of times when I need to learn to keep my mouth shut; but not when it comes to sharing the Lord.

**The Cross I’ll Bear.** The Bible never promised that being a Christian would be a bed of roses. Some men teach such, but the Lord taught otherwise. Yes, we’ll have great peace and deep satisfaction in following the Lord. We’ll also have eternal life, but

the Lord also said “*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me*” (Matthew 16:24). The cross here speaks of sacrifice and suffering. My family may ostracize me, my friends may criticize me, my fellow workers may make fun of me, my boss may fire me, my government may persecute and kill me; but I must be willing to bear the cross for the Lord. I must remain faithful to Him till death (Revelation 2:10). Jesus taught that His Gospel would divide the most intimate of relationships (Matthew 10:34-39). I must count the cost (Luke 14:26-28).

**The Crown I’ll Wear.** For all the time and effort I devote to sharing Christ; for all the criticism and persecution I may suffer for the cause of Christ; if I remain faithful, I will be rewarded with the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). If I overcome temptation to sin, I’ll receive the crown of life (James 1:12). If I keep my faith till the end, I’ll receive the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 2:4:6-8). If I discipline myself and serve the Lord with all I’ve got, I’ll receive an imperishable crown (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Being a Christian is challenging, but Heaven will surely be worth it all! 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)



# LITTLE BIG MEN

Michael Pickford

In God's word we read of certain men who, although they were small physically, were giants spiritually.

Consider David; he was outraged when he heard the giant champion, Goliath of the Philistine army, defy the armies of the living God (1 Samuel 17:26, 36). David was only a youth, a boy, but he was not afraid to take on this giant. David wasn't relying on his physical strength, his experience in battle (of which he had none), or even his keen talent with the sling. His reliance was totally and completely in the living God. *"The Lord, Who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine"* (1 Samuel 17:37). Although small in stature, as compared with his opponent, David's complete trust in God made him a big man.

There is also Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). We are told in verse 3 that he *"was of short stature."* He was physically a little man. And we may safely assume that Zacchaeus was a little man spiritually when we first met him. He was a heathen tax collector, a dishonest businessman who extorted, deceived, and loved riches. But when he heard the words of Jesus he made a complete turnaround. He repented, and not in half measure. He vowed to give away half his riches and then make restitution to anyone he had cheated up

to fourfold. Although a little man physically, Zacchaeus became a very big man in the eyes of God. He became a spiritual giant!

What about Paul? Before becoming an apostle, Paul was known and feared by Christians as Saul the persecutor. He went about imprisoning Christians, caused them to blaspheme, and even testified against them so that they would be put to death. It is also very possible that he was small physically (2 Corinthians 10:10). Saul may have been small physically and spiritually, but he became one of the biggest among the giants of God's people. He repented and was baptized (Acts 22:16). After having obeyed the Gospel, Paul traveled all over the world and established churches. Because of his efforts many in that day became believers in Jesus as Lord. He stood strong and firm in the face of relentless enemies, who criticized, abused, persecuted, and pursued him right up to his death. Indeed, Paul was a little BIG man!

What about you? Surely you realize that physical size is irrelevant in the sight of God. Be brave and trusting as David was. Be penitent as Zacchaeus was. Be obedient, fearless, and active as Paul was. If you will be all of these things, then regardless of your physical stature, you will be Big in the kingdom of God. 🔗

Lessons on Marriage & The Family  
Every First Sunday Night.

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### The Lord's Will

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....John Nelson  
Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....Robert Johnson  
Serve.....Chris Meade
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

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!