

TRUTH DIVIDES!

Michael Pickford

Jesus said “*I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother...*” (Matthew 10:34-35).

The thing that really divides is some men’s refusal to follow the truth. When they do this, division is inevitable because others will insist on remaining with the truth.

I pray I never have to face this situation with my children. I have seen many others do so over the years. Some of them remained with the truth, dividing themselves from their own children; others, sadly, decided to go the other route.

I’ve seen it happen with elders, deacons, preachers, etc. I’ve known elders who have opposed unauthorized religious practices openly for years, only to become tolerant when their children grow up and get involved with them. I know a deacon who left the faithful church to follow his children into religious error. I know a handful of preachers who have left the truth they had preached for years on marriage, divorce and remarriage because of a situation their children got themselves into. Tragic!

It’s not always beds of roses when serving Christ. Let us pray for strength to endure during difficult days! 🔍

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

Volume 8, Number 14

April 01, 2012

SOLID ADVICE

Michael Pickford

Proverbs 20:1-4 provides some solid advice. When studying the Bible, we find these to be not only advice, but requirements for the faithful Christian walk. We are admonished to...

Abstain From Liquor. “*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise*” (Proverbs 20:1). O The Death and despair brought forth by the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Liquor is deceptive, destructive and deadly. It is deceptive in that it is presented to us (via advertisement) to be something that imparts comfort, fun and beauty. Hebrews 3:13 reminds us of the “*Deceitfulness of sin.*” Liquor is destructive in that it can destroy relationships, health, and families. It is deadly in that it can lead to cancer, if the drunkard manages not to get himself killed in a car accident or bar room brawl. Innocent people regularly die at the hands of those who are drunk.

Admire Your Leaders. “*The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul*” (Proverbs 20:2). We should respect those who rule over us in Government. We may disagree, but we should still remain respectful.

When Paul admonished saints to “*Be subject to the governing authorities*” (Romans 13:1), the very one in authority at the time was none other than that cruel despot Nero. An evil government is far better than no government at all. Submit yourself to the ordinances of the king, governors, etc; be subject to rulers and authorities (1 Peter 2:13-14; Titus 3:1); and perhaps more importantly, respect and subject yourself to the elders in the local body. “*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you*” (Hebrews 13:17).

Abandon Your Laziness. “*The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing*” (Proverbs 20:4). Saints often seek excuses not to study their Bible, pray, teach others the Gospel, attend services, and the list goes on. We should take heed to the words of the apostle Paul, “*Therefore, my brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord*” (1 Corinthians 15:58). Be a worker not a shirker! 🔍

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

www.defendthegospel.com

GOOD NEWS!

Michael Pickford

I like to hear good news. Who doesn't? Whether it comes by phone, in the mail, email, or in person; good news is always nice.

Some may not realize it, but the word "Gospel" comes from the Greek word "euangelion" which literally means "A good message; good news." Many more may not realize that the Greek word for "Evangelist" is "euaggelistes." Look familiar? Yes, the word literally means "A preacher of good news!"

Now let me ask you a question: Do you like to hear good news? Would you make the effort to walk to the mailbox in the rain if you knew good news was waiting for you? Sadly, many, while claiming to love good news, make no special effort to go down to where the church assembles and hear the best good news of all! Many allow small things to hinder them from going to hear the world's greatest message.

The Bible says "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is

the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). Isn't it a shame that God has to actually command this of us? This should come naturally! We should anticipate with great pleasure the next meeting of the church so that we might give and receive exhortation from our brethren, worship God, and yes, feed regularly from the Gospel!

If one truly "Seeks first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33), will he not be joyously anticipating the next meeting of the saints, rather than trying to come up with a good reason not to attend?

If there's anything I like better than hearing good news, it's delivering good news. I love being an evangelist and regularly delivering to folks the best good news they will ever hear in their lifetime.

Don't forsake the assemblies. The Gospel is good news you need to hear often! 🔍

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'" - Isaiah 55:8-9

SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY DAILY!
Acts 17:11

It's My Pleasure To Serve The Lord

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Ben Reagh
Reading: Psalm 100:1-5
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- 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!