

## SMOOTH WORDS

Michael Pickford

"The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him" (Proverbs 18:17 - ESV). This proverb may be directly applicable to a court of law where Lawyers state their case, but it is a general truth to be applied in all subjects, especially that of Bible doctrine.

Paul said of those who contradict the Gospel that they, "by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:8). How many times have folks accepted false teaching because some slick-tongued preacher made "A lot of good arguments" that "Made really good sense to me." Error often does sound good, but remember

Our Proverb, and another which states, "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of destruction" (14:12).

Romans 16:18 mentions those who are deceived by the silver-tongued heretic – "The simple." These are those who are not very knowledgeable in God's word including not just new Christians, but sadly, some who've been Christians for years but haven't loved the truth enough to be diligently studying it (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11).

Study daily, as the Proverbs says, "Examine" all religious teaching with the Bible (Acts 17:11). Don't be deceived by "Smooth words." 🔍

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, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 10, Number 25

June 29, 2014

### ENOCH

Michael Pickford

The Bible doesn't give us a great deal of information about this unique man named Enoch, but we do have some gems from which we can learn valuable spiritual lessons. Note...

The Way Enoch Trusted. "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God" (Hebrews 11:5). Enoch made the Hall of Faith. He trusted God. A saving faith is an active, obedient faith (James 2:17, 24). If we say we believe Jesus to be Lord, but refuse to do all He commands, we don't really trust Him. The Lord said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16). Do we trust Him over men today who tell us that this verse doesn't mean what it says? Have you been baptized in order to wash away your sins and be saved? (Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:11). If not, you don't really trust the Lord.

The Way Enoch Taught. We actually have a small portion of one of Enoch's sermons recorded in Jude verses 14-15, "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,

to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." Strong stuff; powerful! Bold! We need men in the pulpit today who will follow his example in our day of rampant religious error; men who will fulfill their ministry by courageously contradicting false doctrine with preaching that convinces and rebukes (2 Tim. 4:2-5).

The Way Enoch Was Taken. Enoch didn't die in the usually way. "Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him" (Genesis 5:24). He "Pleased God" with his obedient faith (Hebrews 11:5). Enoch was unique in the way he entered eternity, but he need not be unique in his eternal destination. Men today who walk with God in their lives may face death (Hebrews 9:27), but whoever lives and believes in the Lord shall never die in the eternal sense (John 11:26). He who "Obeys" Christ will receive eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9). Whoever is faithful to the Lord until death will receive the "Crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). Let us be careful to walk with the Lord in the light of His word. 🔍

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

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

## 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!**

# How To WALK

Michael Pickford

It is important for children to learn how to walk, and for adults to properly guide them in this endeavor. It is more important for children of God to learn how to walk, that is, to direct their daily steps in God's direction; to have a godly and righteousness manner of life. Many passages mention the idea of how a Christian should walk, but let's focus on the book of Ephesians. We should...

Walk Not like the world. "That you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk" (Ephesians 4:17). Their interest is to conduct themselves towards fulfilling the lusts of the flesh (Ephesians 2:2-3). The sinner is interested in fornication, uncleanness, loving money, filthiness, foolish talking, unthankfulness, and such like (Ephesians 5:3-5). But these things should not even be named among God's children.

Walk In Love. Ephesians 5:1-2. As we walk in love, we imitate God, who demonstrated His love towards sinners by putting His Son on the cross (Romans 5:6-9). It's unloving toward God and sinners to walk like the world in sin. Let's not walk like the world, but rather, let's share the Gospel with them and strive to teach them to walk like us. Now that's love!

Walk As children of light. Ephesians 5:8. This includes bearing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives: Goodness, righteousness, truth, et al. We are also to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Don't do something that in the world's eyes would place your stamp of approval on a dark, sinful act.

Walk Circumspectly. Ephesians 5:15. This literally means to walk forward in a circular motion; looking beside and behind us as we move forward so the devil, who seeks to devour us, might not catch us off guard and persuade us to sin against God.

Walk worthy of our calling. Ephesians 4:1. Whether in the workplace, in the home, in the neighborhood, in the school, on the road (Road rage?), in the restaurant, in the grocery store, or even among brethren, we dare not live, act, or speak in such a way as to dishonor and blaspheme the holy name of God (1 Timothy 6:1). We must rather walk in lowliness, gentleness, and longsuffering. Paul said to "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside (of Christ)...Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Colossians 4:5-6). Our speech must be graceful and seasoned toward our fellow drivers who cut us off, our boss who treated us unfairly, our waiter who took too long to attend to us, and then got our order wrong, our neighbor who acted unneighborly toward us, the bank teller who accidentally shorted us twenty bucks while cashing our check, and yes, even that telemarketer who won't take no for an answer. May God give us strength and discernment to walk worthy of His holy Name. ☞

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### The Truth

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### **DUTY LIST...**

##### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Glenn Isbell  
Reading: John 17:17-23
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Ben Green  
Serve.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....Michael Pickford
- Closing Prayer.....Robert Johnson

##### **SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Ben Green

##### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- 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!**