

## DEAD LIONS

Michael Pickford

“A living dog is better than a dead lion” (Ecclesiastes 9:4). If both animals were alive, surely the lion would be more intimidating than the dog, and more useful to his owner as a guardian of his property. But if the lion is dead, it is nothing in comparison to the dog. Even a poodle would be preferable to the rotting carcass of the “King of the jungle.”

In regards to spiritual matters, the world offers a host of dead lions. It is far greater to be dead broke, but saved in the Lord’s church, than to be filthy rich and lost outside of Christ.

The most grammatically incorrect, but truthful sermon from an untalented,

uneducated man is far superior to the eloquent speech of the refined toastmaster who gives a glowing dissertation on a worldly subject.

The man who takes his child regularly to the services of a small, faithful, unpretentious church is doing supremely more good for his child than the man who makes certain his child is accepted into the finest institutions of education the world has to offer.

We should not allow ourselves to be anxious about and distracted by the dead lions that impress the world; we need to simply trust the Lord, serve Him, and look forward to our eternal home in heaven. 

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.

## 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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## FINDING A MATE

Michael Pickford

One of the most important decisions you will make in this life is who you will marry. Your marriage will affect every aspect of your life. While you are searching for a mate, Here’s some scriptural wisdom....

**Be Pure.** Save yourself sexually for marriage. “Pre-marital sex” has become popular these days. Worldly wisdom even recommends such, advocating things like living together before marriage, etc. But the Bible calls such “Fornication” (1 Corinthians 7:1-2; Hebrews 13:4). Not only is sexually purity before marriage demanded by God, but it is a cornerstone of contentment with your mate after marriage. Everybody is talking about “Safe Sex;” but sex is not supposed to be dangerous. Just keep it as God intended: Exclusively within the marriage relationship! “Flee fornication!” (1 Corinthians 6:18). “Flee also youthful lusts” (2 Timothy 2:22).

**Be Picky.** “Only date the kind of people you would want to marry.” This age-old advice is good. Part of the purpose of dating and courtship is to better get to know someone. There may be some unsavory things you already know about a person before

you decide to date them. Please be very careful and very cautious in these matters. “I’m going to change him/her.” Maybe, but why risk it. If you’ve devoted your life to serving the Lord, why marry someone who has not? In all his wisdom, Solomon could not keep his heart from being drawn away from the Lord by worldly and idolatrous wives (1 Kings 11:4). Think of potential children before you marry. Would you want them being raised by a parent who is not a faithful child of God and not interested in God’s commands to parents regarding child rearing (Ephesians 6:4)?

**Be Prayerful.** We should pray about everything; certainly when it comes to our future mate (Ephesians 6:18). I love the story about Abraham’s servant praying about a bride for Isaac (Genesis 24). Be prayerful and be patient. Don’t allow yourself to become “Desperate.” Don’t be discouraged if your friends are all marrying and having children while you remain single. Wait on the Lord. Don’t jump the gun. I’ve seen some who married “beneath them” spiritually and it weakened them in their devotion to the Lord. How sad, and often, how tragic! While seeking a mate, be patient and trust the Lord! 

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## NEAR

Michael Pickford

The word “near” is found more than 295 times in scripture. Most of these speak merely of physical nearness, but other occurrences teach us valuable lessons about...

- **Relief.** “*The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit*” (Psalm 34:18). In the context here, the saving does not speak of soul, but of physical circumstances, as the next verse indicates. “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.” The deliverance may not be complete healing from some illness, or release from a challenging situation; it may rather be a providing of strength to endure the suffering.
- **Reverence.** “*Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land*” (Psalm 85:9). If we want God to be near to us, we must “Fear” Him; that is, reverence Him! We must respect His name, His truths, His way of salvation, His direction in worshipping Him, etc. Believing something He has not taught, or worshipping in a way He has not directing are not acts of reverence, but of rebellion. 1 Samuel 15:22-23
- **Redemption.** “*Draw near to my soul, and redeem it; Deliver me because of my enemies*” (Psalm 69:18). If we humble ourselves in obedient submission to God, the blood of Christ will be applied to our sins, redeeming our souls (Hebrews 5:8-9; Revelation 1:5; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 1:18-19). “*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up*” (James 4:7-10). 📖

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

-Job 1:21



**OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH  
DAVID MCPHERSON IS  
SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER  
19-24 (SUNDAY - FRIDAY).**

## SERMON NOTES

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

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

### Joash The King

Introduction:

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

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

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

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

##### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glen Isbell  
Reading: 1 Peter 1:18-25
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord’s Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Ben Green
- Closing Prayer.....Ben Reagh

##### **SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Todd

##### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Eli 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!**