

IMITATION

Michael Pickford

As children, we imitate our friends, our teachers, and especially our parents. As we grow into adults, many of us take on more of a personal identity, yet we still imitate the actions and characteristics of others from time to time. We tend to imitate those with whom we spend the most time; sometimes without even realizing it. This is why it's so crucial that we spend as much time with other Christians as we can. To imitate someone is to pattern yourself after them. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). It's good to pattern your life after faithful Christians. "...but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promise" (Heb. 6:12). We must imitate the good in others, not the bad! Sadly, sometimes we do both. John wrote, "Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good..." (3 Jn. 11). It is most important that we imitate God! "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children" (Eph. 5:1). This is done by reading and studying His word, then applying it in our lives. What kind of people, actions, characteristics, and things do you imitate? Good or evil? 🔍

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

- 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, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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HOW GIVING THANKS HELPS

Michael Pickford

Thanksgiving is a recurring theme throughout the Bible. God wants us to express our gratitude to Him often. Sure, it's a command, but there are many benefits we receive when we give thanks...

Develop Your Attitude. Giving thanks for our rich blessings helps us develop an "attitude of gratitude." This enables us to eradicate those feelings of bitterness, anger, resentment, and complaining that grips the hearts of so many of us. We are told to put away "*all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking*" (Ephesians 4:31-32). Becoming thankful people will give us a grateful disposition towards God and men. No wonder God stresses that giving of thanks should be made for all men (1 Timothy 2:1).

Displace Your Anxiety. As a nation of the most blessed people on earth, it's ironic that we are also the most anxious. So many are consumed with anxiety and frozen with fear. Certainly there are anxious times, but going to God with thanksgiving helps ease our minds during these. Too many people are more apt to take a pill rather than turn to prayer. Some put more faith in stress management classes and

"Psychological gurus" than they do in the concept of "Take it to the Lord in prayer." God tells us what to do in anxious times – Be thankful! "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7). Note the phrase, "With Thanksgiving."

Determine Your Actions. Ungrateful people are not as likely to be as friendly and sharing as those with grateful dispositions. Show me someone who is stingy with their possessions and I'll show you someone who is ungrateful for his blessings. A grateful heart is a generous heart. Paul wrote several paragraphs to the Corinthians encouraging them to give aid to those in dire need. He ends the subject with this statement, "*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*" (2 Corinthians 9:15). It feels good to give and to share. Truly, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35). When I was a child I got more joy out of opening my gifts from others, now I get more joy out of watching others open their gifts from me. 🔍

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TRADITIONS

Michael Pickford

When we think of traditions, we usually think of something bad. For example, the Pharisees made useless the commands of God by their traditions (Mk. 7:13). A tradition is something handed down from one generation to the next. These Jews had developed what they called oral traditions. To them, these traditions were as binding as the word of God. They asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders?" (Matt. 15:2). In binding these traditions of men these Jews transgressed the commandment of God (Matt. 15:3, 6). Before his conversion, Paul was a Pharisee (Phil. 3:5) and extremely zealous for these oral traditions (Gal. 1:14).

On the other hand, God's word itself is referred to as "traditions." They are traditions handed down by Him through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10-13) and He is serious about folks holding them. Paul wrote, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught..." (2 Thess 2:15). Paul praised the Corinthians for keeping God's traditions just as Paul delivered them (1 Cor. 11:2). We must keep all of

God's traditions just as He delivered them without addition or subtraction. Those who change or go beyond them bring on themselves a curse (Gal. 1:6-9) and are cut off from fellowship with God (2 Jn. 9). Paul tells us how to deal with those who fail to keep God's traditions (2 Thess. 3:6).

Many religious groups today are guilty of doing to the Gospel the same thing the Jews did to the old law: Making it useless by their traditions. As a result, the Jews were splintered into different "denominations," - Pharisees, Essenes, Sadducees, etc. Today, as a result of mingling traditions and commandments of men with the pure Gospel, there are different "denominations." Just as the Jews recorded theirs in the Mishna, religions today record theirs in books called the Methodist Discipline, the Baptist Manual, and The Catholic Catechism, etc. Just like the Pharisees, these people will be condemned for making vain the commandments of God by their traditions. God's word contains all we need to serve Him faithfully (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:3). Traditions of men are unneeded, uninspired and unscriptural! ☞

"In Everything Give Thanks"

1 Thessalonians 5:18

SERMON NOTES

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

"Gave Thanks":

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

**STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11**

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Sam Miller
Reading: Psalm 100:1-5
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Ben Reagh

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

Thank You For Serving!

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; 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!

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*