

PRIDE

Michael Pickford

What is pride? Ultimately, pride is a sense of self sustenance; a disposition of independence from God. When one becomes proud, he feels that what he has or what he has done was by his own strength, and his alone. He feels no need for the help of others, and most tragically, no need for help from God.

The Bible teaches us that *“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall”* (Proverbs 16:18). Certainly this is true in any realm of life; but the most important is that of our spirituality. We must strive for righteousness, but we must never become haughty in our spirituality. We should have confidence that we can

defeat temptation with the Lord’s help, but we must not feel that we can never fall. *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”* (1 Corinthians 10:12).

We’re all threatened by pride on some level. So, what’s the antidote? The best defense against pride is a grateful heart mixed strongly with humility. If we’re constantly thanking others, we will be ever reminded of how important they are in our lives. If we are always thanking God for His rich blessings, we will never forget our complete dependence upon Him. Let us be *“Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father”* (Ephesians 5:20). 🔍

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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DUST TO DUST

Michael Pickford

It is not uncommon to hear the preacher at a funeral say something like, “From ashes to ashes, from dust to dust.” What does it mean? It is a reminder of where our bodies came from and where they are going. *“In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, and to dust you shall return”* (Genesis 3:19). But the most important part is that little word “To.” From dust “To” dust. We began as dust, and our bodies return to the dust, but what we do with our lives in between is the most crucial part.

The spirit returns to God. *“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it”* (Ecclesiastes 12:7). The biblical definition of the word death is “Separation.” James wrote, *“For as the body without the spirit is dead...”* (James 2:26). Death occurs when our spirit leaves our body. The body decays and returns to the ground, but the spirit continues to exist; it returns to God.

We will be judged. The idea in Ecclesiastes 12:7 is not that everybody goes to heaven when they die, but rather that the spirit goes to be in the hands of God for Him to deal with accordingly. We will face the Judgment seat of Christ. *“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”* (Hebrews 9:27).

How ought we to live? Now we’re back to that in between part. From dust “To” dust. Our bodies return to dust, but our spirit will be judged based on what we did while in the body. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad”* (2 Corinthians 5:10). The two options for our spirit are everlasting punishment and eternal life (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29). In light of impending destruction, Peter asks how we ought to live. He answered his own question, *“In holy conduct and godliness”* (2 Peter 3:11). We must obey the Lord (Hebrews 5:8-9), then serve Him faithfully till we leave this body of clay (Revelation 2:10) if we want to be part of the “Resurrection of life.”

How are you using your “To” part of “Dust to dust?” 🔍

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www.defendthegospel.com

BE LIKE JOSEPH

Larry R. Ping II

The Bible reports “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (**Romans 3:23**). We often approach this verse from the view of the sinner. But remember, this verse also indicates there are scores and scores of sins to forgive — mostly on the part of God but also on the part of man.

Forgiveness can be hard for some. Yet, forgiveness comes very easily for others. There are those who have adamantly said “I will not forgive.” And there are those who have forgiven some very heinous sins committed against them.

Joseph was one who forgave very easily, though those things done to him were quite dreadful. Joseph’s life is a case study concerning the providence of God. He is a very worthy example of defeating temptation, and avoiding the pitfalls of being young. His pattern of returning glory to God in being able to interpret dreams is very admirable.

Yet, his greatest achievement concerns none of those things. His noblest accomplishment was his capability to forgive — to forgive being abandoned in a pit — to forgive being sold into slavery — to forgive the lie told to his father concerning his death.

The masterminds behind these cruelties? His own “flesh and blood” brothers — who were deathly afraid to approach him as he sat second in command in Egypt. The account of **Genesis 50** is a tender and touching story of a brother forgiving his brothers unconditionally.

On this day, let us each have an attitude of forgiveness. Let us purpose in our heart to forgive whatever trespasses are committed against us. Let us not withhold forgiveness.

Today, forgive those who have been asking. You will be astonished at the peace which results in your life.-

Via <http://thedailybiblemessage.com>

"And it is appointed
for men to die once,
but after this
the judgment!"

Hebrews 9:27

SERMON NOTES

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

The Word of Life

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

**STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11**

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Sam Miller
Reading: 1 John 1:1-4
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....John Nelson
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....John Nelson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Ben Green

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!

Thank You For Serving!

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*