

## INTO THE HEART

Michael Pickford

Jesus said, “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.” (Mark 7:21-23).

Jesus isn’t just concerned about what we do here; He’s concerned about what’s inside our hearts. That is, what goes on in our minds.” Someone might say of another, “He’s not in his right mind.” He comes to that conclusion by looking at how the person acts and what he says. Our words and our deeds are a manifestation of what’s going on in our

Heads!

What does this say about what goes into our hearts – our heads? Computer folks have an old phrase GIGO. It means “Garbage In Garbage Out.” Our minds are like computers, If you put bad programming into a computer, you will get junky results. If you put bad stuff into your mind, you will get evil results. Isn’t this what the Lord is teaching?

No wonder David firmly decided to set nothing wicked before his eyes (Psalm 101:3). Dirty TV, movies, music, books, video games. If you wouldn’t want it coming out of your mouth, why let it into your heart? 🔍

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](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 11, Number 13

March 29, 2015

## DEADLY DISTRACTIONS

Michael Pickford

There are many things in this world that clearly have the disapproval even of many worldly folks. Drunkenness, fornication, murder, and other such sins are transgressions we clearly want to avoid. But there are many things that are in large part spiritually neutral. That is, they are not sinful by nature. However, when abused, they can become sinful. One of the abuses is that we often allow these things to consume too much of our time and interest, to the point of neglecting essential spiritual matters. Let’s consider three deadly distractions.

**Entertainment.** There’s nothing wrong with entertainment. We all need a break. TV, video games, books, and such like are perfectly acceptable forms of entertainment as long as their content is moral and decent (Psalm 101:3). But we can lose our souls spending too much time with them, even when the content is clean and wholesome. We need to maintain a healthy balance, keeping our priorities in check. God comes first! (Matthew 6:33).

**Education.** A good education is important for one to be able to earn a decent living, supplying for himself and his family (1 Timothy 5:4, 8, 16). But if we’re not careful, we can lead our children to believe that a good secular education is the most important thing, and should get first priority. I’ve seen parents allow their children to bring homework to services to do during the sermon! If school work and functions distracts one from reading his bible, sharing his faith, and attending all the services, then education has become a deadly distraction.

**Employment.** It is important for able bodied Christians to seek employment. God has made it clear that if anyone does not work, neither should he eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10). We should work jobs that are honorable and good (Ephesians 4:28). We should work in order to supply for our family (1 Timothy 5:4, 8, 16), to give to the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), and to have something to give to those in need (Ephesians 4:28). But some are consumed with work. They are Workaholics.” A man, upon learning that his friend was working two full time jobs, asked him, “Are you greedy?” The three things listed above should be our motives for working. If we are working because we want to be rich, then we’ll likely allow our jobs to distract us from essential spiritual responsibilities (Pr.23:4). 🔍

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

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

# THE SECRET THINGS OF GOD

Mike Thomas

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God,” said Moses to the Jews, “but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law” (Deut. 29:29). The apostles taught the same thing in Christianity; everything God wants us to know about His will has been revealed in His word (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jude 3).

It is folly on our part to speculate in matters which God has not explained. From the forbidden fruit to what our resurrected bodies will look like, we are not given specific information on many things. Man in his ignorance has said the forbidden fruit was an apple and assumes our eternal bodies will be the same as our current ones, but God has not revealed the answers to these and many other questions.

Is there life on other planets? Are there other “earths” in the many galaxies we see? Has God experienced creation many times over and will He continue doing so after He brings this world to an end? Why is Satan more powerful than other angels? If he is an angel that rebelled, how come other angels have not succeeded him in evil and dominion? As we ponder the possibilities to these and other intriguing thoughts, let us not “ponder” ourselves into denial and disbelief. Paul warned, “But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife” (2 Tim. 2:23). There is such a thing as wrestling over uncertain things to the point of creating confusion, doubt, and division. This is not only foolish, it can also lead to a bitter and divisive spirit, which God has made clear is an offense to Him (Pro. 6:19). Besides all this, He has given us plenty to learn and decipher from His word to keep us busy, instead of wasting time on wrestling over the unknowable.

How many churches did Jesus establish? What kind of music does He want in worship? When does He want saints to take the Lord’s Supper? What kind of organization does He want in local churches? What role do women have in public teaching? What does He think about divorce? What is the church to do with unfaithful members? God has answered these questions (see Eph. 4:1-4; Col. 3:16; Acts 20:7; Titus 1:5; 1 Tim. 2:11-12; Matt. 19:1-9; 2 Thess. 3:14). It is our responsibility to rightly divide the Bible to find these answers (2 Tim. 2:15) and to remain content with God’s will (1 John 2:3-6). Anything not given is not God’s will for us to know. –



# Prayer Service

# Tonight at 6 pm

## SERMON NOTES

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

### Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

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

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

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

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glen Isbell  
Reading: Matthew 13:53-58
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord’s Table:  
Lead.....Ben Green  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Kenny Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

##### SUNDAY EVENING

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

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

#### 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!***