

WELL DONE!

Michael Pickford

All of us enjoy it when others recognize our work or deeds with positive remarks. Children bask in the praise of their parents, and this often encourages them to try even harder, do even better. Students enjoy receiving praise from their teachers, employees enjoy being praised and rewarded by their bosses; it makes them better workers, and helps maintain a good morale in the workplace. But there is One whose praise we should seek above all others...

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord”

-Matthew 25:23

On the last day, we will hear one of two things from the mouth of the Lord: 1) Well done, good and faithful servant, or 2) Depart from me, I never knew you (Matthew 7:23). Which will you hear? That depends on whether or not you choose to obey the Gospel and do the Father’s will! Obey today, and serve the Lord faithfully till death (Mark 16:16; Revelation 2:10). Look forward to hearing the Lord’s praise and receiving your crown of life. ☞

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
- 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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LIVING STONES

Michael Pickford

A disc jockey once gave a comedy sketch on pet rocks. He explained that sometimes the rocks would get a disease that would cause them to crumble. He tried a special coating that was supposed to “Cure” them, but he eventually had to get rid of them lest they infected the other rocks. The joke was all about the “sick” rocks. I wonder if Peter knew about sick rocks when he spoke of a “Living stone.” We are to be “Living stones,” not sinful saints (1 Peter 2:4-5). Peter goes on to explain how we can keep from becoming sick and possibly infect others around us with negative attitudes, laziness, and indifference. ...

Our Worship. As living stones, we are to “Offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God” (1 Peter 2:5). This could apply to our daily lives. Are we modest? Do we pray, read the Bible, exhort and assist others? Or are we comforting ourselves to the world (Romans 12:1-2)? The concept of spiritual, acceptable worship also applies to the church, as we are to have the Lord’s authority for everything we do (Colossians 3:17). Many “churches” have become playhouses and social clubs. They concentrate on appealing to the entertainment of the flesh rather than offering up spiritual sacrifices! They are sick, dead rocks!

Our Work. “They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed” (1 Peter 2:8). The Messiah was to come through the Jews, but they rejected Him and were disobedient to His Gospel. As Christians, we are also appointed to the Gospel. We are to obey it initially through baptism, and then we are to continue to obey it, faithfully serving the Lord until death (Revelation 2:10). Those who fall from grace and depart from the living God have become dead stones, and must be purged from the church so as to not infect the other living stones (1 Corinthians 5:1-8).

Our Walk. “Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles” (1 Peter 2:12). As living stones in a world dead in sin, it is important how we conduct ourselves. We should be separate and different from our worldly neighbors and co-workers. We should live holy and righteous before them, with the hopes that they, by our good works which they observe, may come to obey the Gospel themselves. Our speech, our dress, our attitude, our work ethic, our entertainment... all of these should reflect our desire for holiness. ☞

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www.defendthegospel.com

$1 + ? = 2$

Mike Thomas

When Jesus came back from the dead, He said to His apostles, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16). Faith plus baptism equal salvation. Why is that so hard to see? It's as simple as 1 + 1 = 2, right? Then why is there so much confusion in the world regarding salvation from sin and how to obtain it? Why are there various answers given to find the sum of 2?

Some teach that 0 + 1 = 2. That is, they say an infant (who is incapable of believing or repenting) is to be sprinkled for salvation, then is to learn faith as they mature. Is that what Jesus taught? Did He say baptism equals salvation then add faith later? No, He said 1 + 1 = 2. Not only do children not have sins to be forgiven of (Ezek. 18:20), they cannot be sprinkled to meet the act of baptism. The gospel teaches that baptism is to be a full body immersion in water of those who believe Jesus is Christ (Acts 8:35-38).

Others teach that 1 + 0 = 2. They say a person who believes is saved then should be baptized sometime later to demonstrate their salvation or to join a denomination. Once again, is that what Jesus taught? Did He say he who believes is saved then should be baptized later? No, He said 1 + 1 = 2. Faith plus baptism equals salvation. His apostles taught and practiced the same thing (1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 2:38). Paul was baptized to wash away his sins (Acts 22:16) and later taught people to believe and be baptized to enter Christ (Gal. 3:26-27). Those who had not practiced this pattern of salvation were told to become a true Christian, even though they had served God with a different baptism in times past (Acts 19:1-5).

God has designed salvation in such a way that a person must humbly trust Him to find it and not rely on human opinion – "that no flesh should glory in His presence" (1 Cor. 1:29). In whom is your faith? -

Throw Them Away!

"The best throw of the dice is to throw them away" –Austin O'Malley. I agree! I have seen men, women, and families destroyed by the vice of gambling. Its lure is difficult to escape by those who have tasted its thrill. Men will throw away money needed for bills, food, and clothing because "This one will be the big winner." Nonsense! Get an honest job, work hard, be a good steward of the money you earn, care for the needs of your family, use your means to help the needy, give generously to the Lord's church, but don't throw it away at the gambling table! (Ephesians 4:28; 2 Cor. 9:6-8; 1 Timothy 5:4, 8, 16). It frustrates me to have to wait in line because someone is trying to buy lottery tickets, but it frustrates me more that they often rob their children of food and clothing in order to buy those tickets! Gambling loses leads to depression, drinking, and often suicide. I'm told that the Hotels in Las Vegas have bars on the windows to keep folks from jumping to their death after suffering great financial losses gambling. Throw those dice away!-MP

SERMON NOTES

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

Title: _____

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd
Reading: Revelation 3:1-5
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Ben Reagh
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

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!*