



# ***SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER***

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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## **GOD IS LOVE**

**Michael Pickford**

John, the “Apostle of love,” asserts that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Never has any statement of such brevity said so much. It would be impossible to exhaust the full impact of this wonderful truth in such a short article— God is love. But this is a truth we should stamp indelibly upon our hearts. ..

**God Is Love – We Are Saved.** God’s love and concern for mankind cannot be better expressed than in the Cross of His beloved Son Whom He sent to hang on the cruel cross at Calvary for the sins of mankind – that we might be saved (1 John 4:9). We, who lived in such a sinful way as to make ourselves “Enemies of God” (Romans 5:6-9). God loved the unlovable, and paved the way to heaven with the blood of His own Son, making the hope of heaven a possibility for all men, even the most sinful among us (1 Timothy 4:10; 1 John 2:2).

**God Is Love – We Are Supplied.** God’s love is seen in His supply for all of mankind. Even the sinner enjoys the benefits of God’s creation and sustenance – the sun, the rain, etc. (Matthew 5:45). But in a special way, those who respond to God’s love with obedience and sacrifice are promised special care, if they seek first God’s rule in their lives (Matthew 6:25-34). God Promises His faithful children the basic things needed in life. When a saint fails to obtain material wealth, he cannot blame God, for God never promised such. In fact, We can be thankful, for it is very difficult for a wealthy man to refrain from putting his trust in those riches, being diverted away from the things of God by the riches, and losing his soul.

**God Is Love – We Are Suffering.** Those who live in this world suffer; not because God wills it to be so, but because of the sin of man. It is not God’s fault that man suffers; it’s man’s fault because he committed sin. In fact, God, through His love, warned man that suffering would be the result of sin (Genesis 2:17). The Christian will suffer as well. Not only do we suffer because of the sins of the world around us, we suffer because we live righteously in an unrighteous world. We suffer “Because of the word” (Matthew 13:21). Don’t think it strange if you are suffering as a Christian (1 Peter 4:12). We can rejoice at our suffering because it is a blessing to know that we are serving God for an eternal reward, it keeps us mindful that we are headed for a heaven where there is no suffering, and it helps us build the character and strength we need to be faithful until death that we might receive our crown of life. (Romans 5:1-5) ☞

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)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.

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

# WHEN CHILDREN GO ASTRAY

Mike Thomas

Some of the godliest people in the Bible had ungodly children. Eli was a priest who served at the tabernacle and instructed the Israelites in learning God's will. Yet "the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the Lord" (1 Sam. 2:12). They were engaged in everything from eating foods God forbade (vv. 13-17) to committing fornication with women at the tabernacle (v. 22). They had no respect for God, His word, or the godly character of their father. The sons of Samuel were not much better. Though he too was a faithful servant of God, his "sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice" (1 Sam. 8:3). These examples show that it is possible for godly people to have ungodly children.

Children go astray for various reasons. Through choice and freewill, along with the influences of ungodly friends (Pro. 12:26) and unbelieving spouses (1 Kings 11:4), they follow the way of the world. Unfortunately, this is a reality for many parents who did their best. Another reason children err is because they are not corrected. This was Eli's mistake. When he learned of his sons' wickedness, he "did not restrain them" (1 Sam. 3:13). Perhaps this was his pattern in life; to ignore his sons behavior or to be too afraid to take a stand against them. This is not good because, "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him" (Pro 22:15). Then, when they are old, we should continue to oppose any wickedness they engage in — instead of ignoring, defending, or trying to rewrite God's will to make exceptions for them. This does not mean we preach to them every second, lest we drive them further away (2 Tim. 2:24-25). But it does mean we do not compromise God's will to justify their sin. It is a sad scene when older Christians change their convictions on marriage and divorce, salvation, or the work of the church to justify the sins of their children and grandchildren. This only leads to further compromises with evil (1 Cor. 5:6).

If our children have gone astray from the Lord, or seemingly never cared about Him, we must continue to set the right example of faithfulness, pray for their change of heart, and demonstrate a respect for God by keeping our own faith in Him. When Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife" (Luke 17:32), He was referring to people who violate God's will because of their love for the world. We must not do this for our children. Disobeying God saves no one.-

# Each One Teach One

## SERMON NOTES

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell  
Reading: Genesis 39:1-6
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Eli Todd
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- 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!***