
Meditate on These...

- *Whatever Things are True*
- *Whatever Things are noble*
- *Whatever things are just*
- *Whatever things are pure*
- *Whatever things are lovely*
- *Whatever things are of good report*
- *Virtuous things*
- *Praiseworthy things*

- *Philippians 4:8-9*

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
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- 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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BLOODY HANDS

Michael Pickford

The Bible associates the concept of bloody hands with the idea of guilt. If one is guilty of something, he is said to have blood on his hands. This is not an uncommon figure of speech, even in our day. Consider what the Bible teaches regarding one having blood on his hands!....

Murder/Abortion. The wise man teaches us that God hates "Hands that shed innocent blood" (Proverbs 6:16-17). Nothing seems more tragic than the thought that someone's life is snuffed out senselessly and prematurely because someone else took it from them without just cause. This could not be truer than when it comes to abortion – the senseless murdering of precious children in the womb. How can anyone be more innocent than when he is still a baby within the womb of his mother? Yet we have laws in place to protect the murderer/abortionist when they cruelly rip these babies apart before they are born. They have blood on their hands!

Crucifying Christ. When Jesus was standing trial for crimes he did not commit, just before He was led to the cross, we read, "When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was arising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just person. You see to it'" (Matthew 27:24). Pilate may have washed his hands, but they remained bloody. He was not innocent; he was just as guilty as the ones who drove in the nails. But we too can be guilty of Christ's blood if we become unfaithful to Him (Hebrews 6:6; 10:29). Let's remain faithful to the Lord until death, lest we end up with His blood on our hands. (Revelation 2:10).

Sharing the Gospel. If we are not busy trying to share the Gospel with the sinners of the world, they will be condemned, but we will have their blood on our hands. "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand" (Ezekiel 33:8). Before you protest with "That's the Old Testament," let me remind you of the great commission of our Lord, to teach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). Paul said that he was innocent of the blood of all men because he had not shunned to teach them the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27). Are we innocent of the blood of those we come into contact with from day to day? 🔍

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www.defendthegospel.com

RECOMMENDING OUR RELIGION

Michael Pickford

Paul argued that the very existence and faithfulness of the church at Corinth stood as a recommendation of his work and apostleship, and especially of the gospel that he was proclaiming (2 Corinthians 3:1-3). What about us? Do our lives recommend our religion? Do they speak of the fact that we practice a pure and undefiled religion? (James 1:26-27). We recommend our religion by ...

The Scriptures. If we're speaking to someone about our religion, we're not interested in referring to the writings of men, or to the philosophies, traditions, or doctrines conceived by men. We're interested in appealing to the scriptures to prove the things we believe (Acts 17:11; 1 Peter 4:11; 2 John 9). If we're trying to teach someone about how to get saved, we don't parrot the popular theory of "Faith only" salvation, we preach what the Lord Himself taught (Mark 16:16; James 2:24).

How We Live. How we live in the world will either recommend our religion to those in the world, or it will lead them to conclude that we are hypocrites. God's grace teaches us that we must deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age (Titus 2:11-12). We can either be a light to the world, or we can bring shame on the name of God and His doctrine (1 Timothy 6:1; Matthew 5:13-16). We must live in such a way that others might see our good works and come to glorify God (1 Peter 2:11-12).

Our Giving. There's some truth to the old statement about the true measure of one's devotion will be reflected in how he gives. If one from the world walks in among us and sees that only pennies are given every Sunday, what does this say to them about how much we really believe in our religion? God teaches us to give generously and willingly (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

Our Attendance. When the world observes us missing the assemblies for their activities, what message does this send to them about how we feel about our faith? Do they see that we are truly devoted, willing to make sacrifices, or do they learn that we will attend only when it's convenient to do so? We must not forsake the assemblies; God's kingdom comes first (Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 6:33).

It's Affect On Us. How does our faith in Christ affect our daily disposition? Does it recommend our religion? Do people in the world observe us as sad, forlorn, complaining people? Or do they see in us a joy and contentment that is hard to describe with words? If it's the latter, they might be inclined to learn more about what we believe. If it's the former, they might be inclined to run in the other direction. Rejoice in the Lord always! (Philippians 4:4; Acts 8:39).

Being Prepared To Give An Answer. When a friend or coworker asks us a basic question about why we believe a certain thing, do we stammer and stutter, then finally come out with something like, "I don't know?" Or have we studied hard and prepared ourselves for such questions. People will be impressed with our faith if they see that we're ready to defend it (1 Peter 3:15).

Trying To Speak About It. Do we go through our days in silence regarding our faith, hoping no one brings it up? Or are we seeking opportunities to discuss the Lord with anyone anywhere? Let's be ready to share the truth with others, and instigate conversations about the Gospel (Romans 1:14-16; John 3:5-10; Acts 8:4).

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...Michael Pickford
Reading: Romans 13:1-7
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Eli Todd
- Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....John Nelson
 - Serve.....
 - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

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!**