

Going To The Lake...Of Fire...

- *The Cowardly*
- *The Unbelieving*
- *The Abominable*
- *Murderers*
- *Fornicators*
- *Sorcerers*
- *Idolators*
- *All Liars*

- Revelation 21:8

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:**

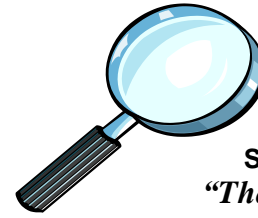
- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



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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A SIGN OF THE TIMES?

Michael Pickford

On occasion we will hear a friend, neighbor, or co-worker speak of something as being a "Sign of the time." What they mean is that something in current events indicates that the Lord will return soon. Is it true that God will send hints or signs indicating that the Lord is about to return?

A Thief in the Night. The Lord, Paul, and Peter all compared the Lord's coming to the coming of a thief (Matthew 24:43; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10). This tells us that there will be no hints, signs, or warnings regarding the Lord's return.

Regardless of the atrocious things that happen in this country or on the world's stage, they do not indicate that the Lord is about to come. Wars and rumors of wars have come and gone since the Lord walked the earth in the first century. Countries have come and gone, many of which tolerated and legislated for some of the vilest of sins, yet we're still here. The moral decline of our nation is terrible, but it is not a "Sign of the time" that indicates Jesus' return is imminent. A thief does not give hints, signs, or warnings as to when he is coming. It will take you by surprise.

Signs of Jerusalem's Destruction. In Matthew 24 Jesus was asked about a couple of things, and he answered both questions. He was asked about the destruction of the temple/Jerusalem, and he was asked about the end of the age (vs 3). He first began to speak about the destruction of Jerusalem, telling them that many things would occur to indicate when it would happen. Then he began to speak of the end of the world and His return, and he said, "Of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (vs 36). He compared His coming to the thief coming in the night (vs 43), again indicating that there will be no special signs immediately preceding it.

Watch! Since we don't know when Jesus will return, and since there will be no special signs indicating His return, Jesus said we should watch (Matthew 24:42). By watching, Jesus meant that we should obey Him and serve Him faithfully (Hebrews 5:8-9; Revelation 2:10). If we obey the Gospel and continue serving the Lord according to his Gospel, it will not matter when the Lord will return; we won't need to know exactly when it will be, because whenever it happens, we will be prepared for it. We shouldn't sit around fretting over when the Lord will return, we should serve Him faithfully and look forward to his return with great anticipation. 🔍

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MIND YOUR MIND

Michael Pickford

A complex piece of machinery requires a special book to explain how to operate it correctly. The human mind is a fascinating thing design and created by God, and in His word he has given some excellent instructions as to its function and operation. In the Bible, God tells us about ...

The Debased Mind. This mindset was attributed to a very corrupt society of people (Romans 1:28). They had, in their “Wisdom,” denied God and sought instead after all things vile and ungodly. Homosexuality is one thing they practiced, and God condemned it in great detail (Romans 1:26-27), declaring it to be unnatural, shameful, and worthy of penalty ridden. Lawmakers in our nation would be wise to read and heed these verses.

The Carnal Mind. This is a mind that is set on allowing itself to be influenced by the sinful world around it. These pursue the things of the world, such as ungodly entertainment and other activities. Contrasted with those of this mind are the “spiritually minded” (vs 6), the ones committed to living their lives according to the truth as revealed in the word of God (Romans 8:4-11). The carnal mind cannot please God.

The Defiled Mind. (Titus 1:15). This mind is similar to the previous two, but in the context, these want to use religion as a means for gain. Their conscience isn’t bothered at all as they teach their error and lead others astray by the false teachings. They are only interested in lining their own pockets while those misled lose their eternal souls (Romans 1:16-17; 2 Peter 3:16). We must be careful to grow in grace and knowledge so we will not be led astray by the error of these wicked minds (2 Peter 3:17-18).

The Renewed Mind. Our mind and conscience is cleansed and renewed through obedience of the gospel at baptism (1 Peter 3:21; Hebrews 10:22; Mark 16:16). Passages that specifically mention a “renewed” mind always set it against a mind that tries to live like and be like the world; and these passages are written to Christians. In Romans 12:2, we are told not to pattern ourselves after the world, and in Ephesians 4:23, we are directed to put off the old man of sin. God doesn’t want us trying to please, appease, or be like the wicked world around us.

The Heaven-Set Mind. Colossians 3:1-2 command us to set our minds on things above, not on things on the earth. This reminds me of the Lord’s words regarding laying up treasures in heaven, not in the world (Matthew 6:19-21). Again, in the context of Colossians 3, Paul contrasted the heaven set mind with the mind that pursues worldly lusts. Thought of going to heaven should saturate our thoughts throughout each day, so as to keep us resilient against the wicked pull of the world around us.

The Anxious Mind. Jesus tells us not to have an anxious mind (Luke 12:29). Easier said than done, right? But whoever said it was easy to be a Christian and do all He says. Jesus did not intend to teach against addressing legitimate concerns and becoming irresponsible by “Not worrying about anything.” He meant to teach a complete trust in God, one that knows that God will take care of us even when we are passing through the severest trials. Prayer is the answer to anxiety (Php 4:6-7). ☺

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...Frank Anderson
Reading: John 6:60-66
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Johnson
 - Serve.....John Nelson
 - Serve.....Kenny Todd
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Sam Miller
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

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!***