

GOD'S PLAN

Bill Walton

In the first century, God's plan for saving the lost and caring for the saved was made known through the apostles and put into practice by the disciples. God's plan was simplicity itself. And its success was the marvel of all the world. The gospel was sent to the lost. The poor and needy were cared for. And the church was edified.

How was the gospel sent to the lost? By congregations (1 Thess. 1:2-8) and individual Christians (Gal. 6:6) supporting evangelists to carry the gospel message all over the world, and by every faithful Christian "who (would) teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2).

How were the poor and needy cared for? By each congregation caring for its own needy (Ac 4:34-35, 1 Tim 5:16) and receiving help from other congregations when needed (Rom. 15:25-26), and by each individual Christian "doing good unto all men" as there was opportunity (Gal 6:10).

How was the church edified? By the elders of each congregation "feeding the flock of God which is among them" (1 Pet. 5:2), and by Christians "exhorting one another" and "provoking one another unto love and good works" (Heb. 10:24-25).

This plan is tried and proven. It worked in the first century, and it will work in the twentieth century. We do not need a new plan. We do not need an improved plan. But we do need renewed zeal for executing God's plan. -

The elements of our worship, 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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SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Michael Pickford

It's exciting to plant seed (any seed) and watch it grow. Kids love it. Justin loves going out every day to water the new grass seed we planted to patch a large bald spot in the yard. He loves to water it daily and watch the growth. It is more important to grow spiritually, and it should be something we should look forward to doing every day. Here are some ways we can grow spiritually...

By Putting Away Sin. 1 Peter 2:1-2. In speaking of growing, Peter urges Christians to put away sinful things (vs 1). These are spiritual weeds that choke out the healthy growth of a Christian.

By Being Planted In God's House. "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God" (Psalm 92:12-13). So you're a member of a local church? Great! But are you really "Planted" there? Are you zealous about attending the services and Bible classes? This is essential to growth (Eph 4:11-16).

By Craving Righteousness. Psalm 92:12-13. Again, the Psalmist said that the righteous shall flourish and grow. We must desire righteousness. Hunger and thirst for it! (Matt. 5:6). If we crave to be righteous, then we will crave to know more about the source of righteousness – God's word.

By Using Milk. "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Pt 2:2). Even mature Christians need constant reminders about the milk to stay strong (2 Pt 1:12-13).

By Eating Meat. We need milk, but we should grow into the meat as well. Don't neglect studying and reading difficult passages; this will stimulate further growth and a deeper knowledge of God's word and will (1 Co 3:2; He 5:13-13).

By Speaking The Truth. But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ..." (Eph 4:15). Certainly we should be honest people, but this verse has reference to THE truth – God's word (Jn. 17:17). We need to speak about it with our families, our brethren, our friends and neighbors, and co-workers, etc. This will keep our familiarity with God's word strong in our minds.

By Exercising. Its one thing to have a working knowledge of God's word, it's another thing to know how to properly apply it to daily living. The more we live it, the more we will mature and grow in the Lord (Heb 5:13-14; 1 Tim. 4:8). 🔍

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www.defendthegospel.com

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?

Greg Gwin

First, let us acknowledge that we have important, essential duties to one another as fellow Christians. We are to help, encourage, edify, strengthen, support, and care for one another. This includes both physical necessities and spiritual imperatives. No one denies these realities.

However, it seems that some Christians are looking to be on the receiving end of these services – but apparently feel little need to give back to their brothers and sisters in Christ. They are quick to criticize if they think they have been neglected, but they do little to reach out to others. It appears that some even have a sort of ‘chip on their shoulder’ which can be easily knocked off if some constant ‘stroking and petting’ is not directed their way. And, the fact that they have been helped numerous times in the past is not enough. If recent attention has not been paid to them, then they will let their displeasure be known.

To these folks, we would say:

- 1) We can always do better, and we’ll keep trying to grow in the important area of brotherly love (1 Thess. 4:10-11). We feel a true burden to help you and we want to fulfill it faithfully.
- 2) But, please be grateful for the help and love your brethren have shown you in the past. Gratitude is a command (Col. 3:15) and ingratitude is a sin (2 Tim. 3:2).
- 3) And, look for YOUR opportunities to serve others. Every Christian, regardless of their specific circumstances, can and must serve their brethren (John 13:12-17). No one can remain exclusively on the receiving end of this relationship. Jesus Himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

We cherish our special bond within the family of God. Let us all do our part to make it as good as it can be. -

They Never Fail!

There are many things that can fail us: Our health, our friends, our family, our vehicles. Isn’t it comforting to know that there are many things that will never fail...

- God: Isa. 42:4; Heb. 13:5-6
- God’s Word: 1 Kngs 8:56; Lk 16:17; 1 Pt 1:23-25
- Love: 1 Cor. 13:8; Mtt 19:9; Matt. 5:27-30
- God’s Mercy: Lam. 3:22
- Heavenly Treasures: Lk 12:33
- God’s Promises: Josh. 23:14; 1 Kng 8:56; Psa. 77:8; 89:33-35
- The Lord’s Years: Heb. 1:11; Jn 1:1-2

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...Sam Miller
Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-17
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Tony Jenkins
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- 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!*