



**A BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO WORKED HARD AT MAKING OUR GOSPEL MEETING A SUCCESS; FOR INVITING FOLKS TO COME, FOR ATTENDING YOURSELF, AND TO OUR MEN WHO LED SINGING AND PRAYERS THROUGHOUT THE MEETING.**

**THANK YOU!!!**

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God’s word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts2:42; 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.



## ***SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER***

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

Volume 12, Number 42

October 23, 2016

### **TRYING HARD OR HARDLY TRYING?**

Michael Pickford

Many things in life take great energy and time to accomplish. We must try hard! Onesiphorus tried hard to find Paul in order to assist him (2 Timothy 1:16-17). The Christian has a great many burdens laid upon him in service to the Lord; things we must always “try hard” at. I’m concerned that many, instead of trying hard, are hardly trying when it comes to serving the Lord faithfully. God wants us to be zealous (Titus 3:14). **How hard are you trying...**

**To Enter Heaven.** In order to travel the narrow and difficult path to eternal life, we must “strive” (Luke 13:24). It takes diligent effort in order to accomplish the things God wants us to accomplish in the work of the Lord. Are you trying hard?

**To Save Others.** Some put forth little effort and sacrifice to try and share the Gospel with the Lost. God wants them saved (1 Tim 2:4). Paul was willing to become all things to all men in order to “Save some” (1 Cor. 9:22). We have to study hard, pray hard, and try hard to study with and convert others.

**To Strive Against Sin.** Many have given up on purging that “Little sin” out of their lives, having deceived themselves into thinking that they do enough good in other areas to make up for it. God wants us to lay it aside ( Heb 12:1), to be “Striving” against it (Heb 12:4). This involves trying hard rather than hardly trying. **To Be Content.** Why is it so hard to be content with the blessings we have? Why do so many spend too much time overworking, etc in order to obtain more? Perhaps because we see others enjoying things we don’t have. Contentment was something Paul had to “Learn” (Php 4:11). We must try hard to learn it too, lest we begin to lose our gratitude to God for the things we already possess and give in to the sin of complaining (1 Cor 10:10).

**To Bridle Your Tongue.** James discussed in depth the difficulties involved in learning to hold our tongues (Jms 3:1-10). If we’re not careful, we can do great damage to others and ourselves with the words we speak. Through the strength of Christ and His Gospel we can learn to use our tongues wisely, but we must not give up trying!

**To Forgive.** God wants us to forgive others when they repent (Luke 17:3-4). This sometimes takes great effort and diligence because people can do and say some extremely hurtful and harmful things to and about us. But remember, we cannot have God’s forgiveness if we do not forgive others (Matt 6:14-15; Col 3:13) 

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# SAME-SEX MARRIAGE & THE BIBLE

Michael Pickford

(You Can Find This Article In Tract Form In The Foyer)

This tract was not written to promote “Hate Speech” or “Hate Crimes.” The Bible condemns both and we detest such ideas. In the spirit of love for souls, we simply desire to put forth what the Bible says regarding homosexuality and “Gay marriage.” Our love for all people compels us to warn them of God’s thoughts on the matter.

While the Bible does not address “Gay Marriage,” or “Same-Sex Marriage” in those terms, it does address the basis of such – Homosexuality. If the Bible condemns homosexuality, then by association it condemns “Same-sex marriages.” Let’s consider seven common statements made regarding homosexuality and “Same-sex marriage,” and then compare those statements with the Bible.

1) **“Homosexuality Is Natural”.** But the Bible says, “For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due” (Romans 1:26-27). Notice the words “Against nature.” Homosexuality is not natural. In speaking about marriage, Jesus taught that God made them male and female and that a man is to be joined to a woman. God did not make a man for a man, He made a woman for a man (Matthew 19:1-6). That’s the “Natural,” God-given way.

2) **“Homosexuals are born that way and cannot change.”** 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 lists several who will not inherit the kingdom of God. We find in that list “homosexuals,” and “Sodomites.” In verse 11, Paul stated, “and such were some of you.” Notice the past tense of “were.” They changed.

3) **“Only forced homosexuality (rape) is condemned in the Bible.”** Again, Romans 1:27 condemns men who, “burned in their lust for one another.” That’s consensual.

4) **“Homosexuality is something to be proud of.”** Many today encourage “Gay Pride.” There is a National Coming Out Day in which homosexuals are encouraged to “Come out of the closet” and be proud of who they are. But again, Romans 1:27 mentions, “Men with men committing what is shameful.” Note the word “Shameful.”

5) **“Sodom & Gomorrah were not destroyed because of homosexuality.”** Jude 1:7 refers back to these cities and says that they were destroyed because they had “Given themselves over to fornication and gone after strange flesh.” When reading the story of the depravity of these cities from Genesis 19:1-11, we learn that the men of the city wanted to commit fornication with the “Men” who had visited Lot (vs 5). Yes, they were indeed destroyed because of their homosexuality.

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<Same Sex marriage Continued From previous Page>

6) **“The Bible only condemns homosexuality when committed as an act of idolatry.”** But Romans 1:21-31 distinguishes between idolatry, homosexuality, and other sins that God condemned (Romans 1:22-31). Based on this passage, if homosexuality is acceptable as long as it isn’t committed as an act of idolatry, then so are the other sins listed in the context, such as murder, hating God, covetousness, being unloving, unforgiving (etc) (Romans 1:29-31). Idolatry is just one of many other sins condemned in this context. Homosexuality is condemned as homosexuality, not as idolatry.

7) **“God will not forgive someone who has committed homosexuality.”** Many struggle with the temptation to practice homosexuality, and they feel God wouldn’t forgive them. But remember, “Homosexuals” and “sodomites” were “washed,” “sanctified,” and “Justified” when they repented and obeyed God (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). God will forgive any sinner who comes to Him on His terms. ☞

## DUTY LIST...

### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Sam Miller  
Reading: Luke 19:1-10
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord’s Table:  
Lead.....Tony Jenkins  
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....Michael Pickford
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

### SUNDAY EVENING

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

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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