

DEPENDENCE ON GOD

Michael Pickford

An eight-year-old prayed “God bless our mothers and our fathers and our teachers and our brothers and our sisters – and please take care of yourself, God; if anything happens to you, we’re sunk!”

As adults, we’re quite certain nothing will happen to endanger God, but this child’s prayer reflects a simple honest dependency upon God. It displays his attitude of full dependence upon the Almighty.

What is a “Given” to his young mind is something we often forget, that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...” (James 1:17).

We depend fully upon God for our physical blessings, even all those we so often take for granted, like the air that we breath (Daniel 5:23). But more importantly, we are fullt dependant upon God for our spiritual blessings, including eternal life (Eph 1:3). 🔍

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

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 1st 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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THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Michael Pickford

It was a beautiful block with pristine houses and immaculately kept yards. Then some new folks moved into the empty house on the corner. They rarely mowed their yard. Weeds soon engulfed the entire block; odd items began to clutter the back yard. Old cars were frequently left parked in the front yard. A broken window and a cracked shutter went unrepaired. The neighbors protested at first; complaints were made to the proper people, but nothing changed. So one by one they gave up, and soon, all the yards on the block denigrated to the same shabby level as their new neighbor’s. And, well... there goes the neighborhood.

The apostle Paul wrote long ago, “Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump” (1 Corinthians 5:6). Paul’s interest was not in giving baking advice; he was concerned with the spreading influence of sin. This influence has the capability of infecting and affecting the entire church in a negative way.

The church at Corinth had in its midst one who was guilty of one of the vilest of sins – incest (vs. 1). This was a sin so shameful that even the heathen would be ashamed to be caught up in such. Yet the Corinthians gloried! They just went on accepting the man in his sin, treating him as if nothing were wrong. As a result, the man continued in his sin with his soul in jeopardy, and the church was at risk of falling as well. You see, if another member fell into sin, and the church tried to do something about it, that individual could just point at the incestuous man as say “But what about him?” Pretty soon, one by one, every member of the church could fall into a life of sin.

But this concept of negative influence can threaten to affect individual Christians as well. Paul wrote “Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals” (1 Corinthians 15:33 - ESV). We may not be able to pick who we shop with, who we work with, who we sit next to at school, etc. But we do get to choose who we spend the bulk of our time with; who we make our closest and dearest friends. Some think they can “Run with” those of the world without their sinful behavior rubbing off on them. Paul said “Do not be deceived!” 🔍

Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: The Love of God

Weekly Memory Verse: Romans 5:8

Introduction: God is the very essence of love. Without Him, there would be no true representation of love, and no standard by which to judge what is or isn't love. John wrote, "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 Jn 4:8). This week, let's consider from scripture the love of God.

Monday: God Demonstrated His Love Through Christ. God actually shows us His love in many ways, but the greatest manifestation of His love towards man was through giving His Son to die on the cross for our sins.

1. Romans 5:6-10: From these verses, list four characteristics that describe man's state when God sent His Son? Did man deserve Jesus on the cross? Did man do everything to be undeserving of it? What does the word "Grace" mean?
2. Read Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Jn 4:7-11: When Paul said that we are saved by grace, did he mean that there's nothing man has to do to be saved, or did he mean that man did nothing to deserve for God to send His son to die for our sins? (Consider Heb 5:8-9, we must do something - obey!).

Tuesday: God shows us His love in other ways.

1. Daniel 5:23; Acts 17:28; Matthew 5:45: Out of His love for man, what does God supply for us based on these verses?
2. Ephesians 1:3; Galatians 3:26-27; 1 Peter 1:3: Are ALL spiritual blessings found in Christ? Must one get into Christ to obtain these blessings? How does one get "Into Christ?" In Christ, God supplies for us a "Living _____."

Wednesday: Our response to God's love for us should be to love Him in return, and this can only be shown through Obeying Him.

1. 1 John 5:3; James 2:24-26. How do we demonstrate our love towards God? When we keep His commandments, is this not work? What does the Bible say about being justified (saved) by "Faith only?" Does "Faith only" demonstrate that we love God?
2. John 14:21: Who is the one who truly loves Jesus? Can we be saved and go to heaven if we do not truly love Jesus?

Thursday: Because God loves us, we should love all others.

1. 1 John 4:7, 11, 20-21; 1 John 5:2. Why "Ought" we to love one another? If someone says he loves God, but then acts unloving towards his brother, what is this one?

2. 1 John 3:16. If we're willing to die for our brethren, should it be difficult to help them when they are in need?
3. Romans 5:10; Matthew 5:44: If God loved His enemies (sinful man), how should we feel about our enemies? List three things we should do for our enemies (Matthew 5:44).

Friday: Nothing can ever separate us from God's love. We are not automatically saved by virtue of the fact that God loves us, for God loved man before Jesus died for him, and man was lost without Christ, even though God loved him. As Christians, we can get discouraged by the constant barrage of temptations, trials, and tragedies that life throws our way. We may be tempted to think that God doesn't really love us, but we should not measure God's love by what we receive in this sinful world, but rather by what He has done for us, and by the promise of eternal life He has given us, made possible through Jesus' sacrifice. As we close this week, let us be reminded that God always loves us, and there is nothing that can change that fact! Even if we suffer and die, in Christ, we will go on to eternal life in glory.

1. Romans 8:35-39. Can you find nine things that Paul listed which cannot separate us from God's love? Can anything separate us from God's love?

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford
Reading: 1 John 5:1-5
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Tony Jenkins
Serve.....Frank Anderson
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

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!**

