

## NOT MUCH HELP

Michael Pickford

The story is told of a young man who was looking for a summer job. He entered a local business and enquired about a job. The manager told him, "I'm sorry young man, we don't need much help right now." Anxious to please and hopefully get hired anyway, the young man responded, "That's okay, I wouldn't be much help."

We often sing a hymn that states, "There is much to do there's work on every hand." Jesus Himself taught that "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37). Truly, there are many around us in this world who are without God and without hope (Ephesians 2:12).

If we obey the Gospel and are added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47) we need to understand that we must be about our Father's business (Luke 2:49). That is, the business of seeking the lost (Luke 19:10). There is no room in the kingdom for those who "Wouldn't be much help." Unfortunately, though, that's the way many members of the church are across the globe.

Employers hire people because there is work that needs to be done. Those who aren't much help don't last long as an employee. God has created us in Christ for the very purpose of doing good works, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10) Let's not take a back seat in the church with the comfortable attitude of "I wouldn't be of much help." Let's be always looking for opportunities to be zealous for good works (Titus 2:14). 🔍

### 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

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- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
  - 1st 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

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## THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Michael Pickford

A popular phrase today is an exhortation for folks to "Think outside the box." I believe what is meant by this statement is the idea of being creative. Don't always just go with the flow, but try to improve the system. Perhaps this is good advice in many areas of life, but it is deadly advice when it comes to God's word.

Paul wrote, "Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written..." (1 Corinthians 4:6). Sadly, there are those who like to get creative with God's word. That is, they take liberties with it; they add and subtract. They teach things not revealed in scripture. They bind man-made laws and traditions. They pervert, twist and otherwise completely abuse the word and will of God. In speaking of Paul's epistles and other Scriptures, Peter said "In which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction..." (2 Peter 3:16). If we may view the Bible as God's box, they are definitely thinking outside the box. The apostle Paul commanded folks to not think beyond what is written.

There have always been false teachers and there always will be (1 Peter 2:1-4). God places a strong condemnation upon those who would teach religious error. They are to be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9); they are to be marked and avoided (Romans 16:17-18); they will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:16); they will lose their place in the book of life and be cursed (Revelation 22:18-19). And they will not be recognized as faithful Christians on judgment day (Matthew 7:21-23). The list goes on.

It is certain, when it comes to God's word, God says Don't think outside the box! "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Peter 4:11).

Regardless of how pretty or how logical, or how dramatic, or how glorious someone makes religious teaching sound, check it out with God's word (Acts 17:11)! "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits. Whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). If you test it and find it to be true, believe it and obey it; if it's false, reject it.

Don't be guilty of thinking outside the box of God's Holy word. 🔍

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# Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: A Living Hope

Weekly Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:1-2

**Introduction:** The concept of hope is essential. Hope is the bedrock of contentment and happiness (Romans 12:12; Romans 15:13). It is the fuel that keeps our life engines running to accomplish goals and meet aspirations. For Christians, hope is indispensable in keeping us faithful in our walk with the Lord. Remove hope and you eliminate joy and stifle the incentive to endure. Unfortunately, the word hope has been watered down in our society because of improper usages. One says something like, "We haven't won a game this season and tonight we're playing a team that hasn't lost a game all year. They're much better than us, but, I hope we win." In such a statement, there is no basis whatsoever for hope. In fact, it seems certain that they will lose the game. Biblical hope doesn't just speak of desire, but also of expectation. The Greek word (Transliterated *elpis*) is defined with the words, "Expectation," and "Confidence." From a biblical perspective, when I say that I hope to go to heaven, I'm not only expressing my desire to go there, but based on God's promises, I'm expressing the fact that I expect to go there! We can "know" that we're going to receive eternal life (1 John 5:13). Without God, there is no hope for anyone (Ephesians 2:12).

**Monday: Our Hope Is A Living Hope.**

- 1 Peter 1:3: What does the word "begotten" mean? What have we been begotten to?
- Should we only think about our hope during the bad times, or, should it be a hope that is ever living in our thoughts?

**Tuesday: Our Hope Is Based On God's Promise and God Cannot Lie.**

- Hebrews 6:13-20: Why did God swear by Himself? Is it possible for God to lie? How should this make us feel in relation to God's promise to us that we will inherit a home in heaven? Read Titus 1:1-2
- Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 1:5. There is only one true hope in regards to life beyond this realm for Christians. What is it?

**Wednesday: Our Hope Is An Anchor For Our Souls.**

- Hebrews 6:19. In the midst of tempestuous storms, ships close to land will let down their anchor to prevent the vessel from being torn apart. How does this imagery relate to our lives and the fact that our hope of heaven is the anchor for our souls?

**Thursday: Our Hope Can Be Compromised.**

- Ephesians 2:12: When we were outside of Christ and without God, did we have a hope for heaven? Therefore, if we leave the Lord and God, are we again without hope?
- Colossians 1:23: is it possible to be moved away from our hope?
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Hebrews 12:1-2. What should we do to keep from being moved away from our hope?
- Because of our hope that will not disappoint, our tribulations and trials can actually make us stronger rather than causing us to stumble (Read Romans 5:1-5!)

**Friday: Because of our hope for the resurrection we, as Christians, view death differently.**

- Acts 24:15: What was Paul's hope, and how does this affect our own viewpoint towards death?
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: What did Paul mean by "Fallen asleep?" At the death of a loved one who died as a faithful Christian, why is our sorrow different from those who have no hope? When a loved one dies as a faithful Christian, reminding ourselves of the future resurrection of the saints provides what? (vs 18).

## DUTY LIST...

### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford  
Reading: Galatians 5:7-15
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Eli Todd
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Tony Jenkins

### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Tony Jenkins

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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