

THE MOUTH *of the*

*Righteous*

speaks **WISDOM.**

- Psalm 37:30

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](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 night of each month Following Services.



## ***SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER***

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*"They...searched the scriptures daily..."* –Acts 17:11

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### **NO EASY WAY OUT**

**Michael Pickford**

A song I'd never heard played on the radio while I waited in line at Publix the other day. It was one of those songs where it's difficult to understand the words. I couldn't decipher much, but I did understand the words that said, "There's no easy way out. There's no shortcut home. There's no easy way out. Givin' in can't be wrong."

I don't know the message the song is trying to get across, but those words made me think of the life of a Christian. It also made me consider a misconception some have about following Christ.

**"There's No Easy Way Out":** There's no easy way to get to heaven. Jesus spoke of the way to life. He said it was narrow and difficult (Matthew 7:14). He went on to say that few would make it because of its difficulty. Jesus taught in another place that one should count the cost before deciding to follow Him (Luke 14:25-33).

**"Givin' In Can't be Wrong":** Because serving the Lord faithfully is so challenging, some have adopted the mentality that it's okay if don't get it completely right. Yes, we stumble from time to time. God has said we can have forgiveness if we repent, confess, and ask His forgiveness (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-9). But some think they can hold on to certain sins in their life because it's so difficult to be completely faithful. That's the devil's lie. Don't be deceived. "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10). 🔍

## **GOD'S HOLINESS**

David Eldridge

Isaiah “Saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!’” (Isa. 6:1-3). To have the proper concept of God, we must understand what the seraphim proclaimed – “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord.” The holiness of God tells much of His nature and our duty towards Him.

**God's Holiness:** To be holy is to be set apart, sacred, and clean. Jehovah has all these qualities — He is morally perfect. Therefore, the psalmist wrote, “The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works” (Ps. 145:17). God, in His holiness, is above sin and evil, “for God cannot be tempted with evil” (Jas. 1:13). God is the epitome of holiness: “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” (Deut. 32:4). To proclaim that God is holy, is to say that He is set apart from all wrong and clean from the stain of sin in His total and unchangeable righteousness.

**Man's Unrighteousness:** In holiness, God is perfectly righteous. However, of man it is said, “There is none righteous, no, not one” (Rom. 3:10). Since God is set apart from evil in holiness, He can have no fellowship with unrighteous man. Thus, of man it is written, “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isa. 59:2). By “wicked works,” we became “alienated” from, and “enemies” of the holy God.

**Being in Communion with the Holy God:** How can we, as unrighteous men, be in fellowship with the holy God? We must be holy as well. God said to those of old, “You shall therefore

consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy” (Lev. 11:44). We are given the same call today: “Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Pet. 1:16). God desires that we would be set apart from sin which defiles us, and be wholly consecrated unto Him. Thankfully, God is still “the LORD who sanctifies you” (Lev. 20:8). To this end, Jesus gave Himself “that He might sanctify and cleanse [us] with the washing of water by the word” (Eph. 5:26). Our sanctification initially takes place in baptism as God washes away our sins, thereby reconciling us to Himself (cf. Ac. 22:16; Col. 1:21-22). We then remain among those sanctified and in communion with God as we are “holy in all [our] conduct,” “proving what is acceptable unto the Lord” while having “no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness” (1 Pet. 1:15; Eph. 5:10-11).

God abides in holiness. Do you? -

### **DUTY LIST...**

#### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell  
Reading: Proverbs 17:15-21
- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
  - Lead.....Kenny Todd
  - Serve.....Michael Pickford
  - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Jason Hubbard

#### **SUNDAY EVENING**

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

#### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- 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!***