

BY HUMILITY AND THE

*Fear of the Lord*

are *riches* and

**Honor and Life.**

- Proverbs 22:4

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***

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry  
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

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

Volume 14, Number 27

July 08, 2018

**IT'S THE LIFE IN YOUR YEARS**

Michael Pickford

MOST PRESIDENTS OF THE United States become famous for their quotes. Abraham Lincoln was no exception. We discussed one of his quotes in an article in last week's bulletin titled, "Be A Good One." Now I'd like to consider another Lincoln quote, "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

Several years ago someone made popular the lesson from the dash found engraved on tombstones—the dash that separates between the date of birth and the date of death. In essence, that dash represents one's life. And that dash is what really matters. The lesson is the same in Lincoln's quote.

Many things are irrelevant in this lesson about life and death. For example, the age one lives in doesn't matter in the end. One could have lived in four thousand BC or six hundred AD. What really matters is how one lived. It also doesn't matter how far apart one's birth date is from their date of death. One might die at the age of twenty while another makes it to one hundred years of age. What matters is what they did during their lifetime. It's not the quantity of life that counts when it's all said and done; it's the quality.

You see, in eternity, time is irrelevant. Luke recorded Jesus' story about a rich man who died and lifted up his eyes in torments (Luke 16:19-31). It's nearly two thousand years later, and that rich man is still in torments. The keeping of time makes no difference to him. He isn't looking back wishing he would've lived twenty more years on earth. He's looking back wishing he would've served the Lord while he was on earth. We're sometimes troubled when a righteous person's life is snuffed out in its prime, or sooner. It sometimes tests our faith because we see wicked people living until old age. It's an age-old dilemma. Asaph said that his feet nearly stumbled when he considered it. But then he considered the end of the wicked—their eternal destination (Psalm 73:1-17).

If you serve the Lord faithfully and die at the age of twenty, I assure you that you won't find yourself sitting around in glory regretting that you didn't make it to ninety. What matters, in the end, is what you did while in the body, not how long you resided in the body (2 Corinthians 5:10). Jesus promised that when those who trust in Him die, they shall live! Do you believe this? Then take heart when the good die young (John 11:25). ☺

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

# HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

David Eldridge

Spring is here! As the cold hand of winter loosens its grip and the temperature begins to warm, our thoughts turn to the things of Spring. One thing synonymous with Spring is planting. In fact, the stores are already advertising and selling seeds to plant. Those of you who garden know that there are some basic truths of a garden's growth and fruits. These truths remind us of some spiritual principles regarding the garden of our lives.

After working the ground, a garden begins with sowing seed. The seed you choose to sow in your garden is important, as you want it to be good seed. The seed you sow has a direct impact on the fruit you receive. That's why those who have sown gardens for many years have favorite kinds of seed that they plant every year. So it is spiritually. The seed you sow in the garden of life needs to be good seed. Why? Because it impacts the kind of fruit you will receive. Paul wrote, "For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life" (Gal. 6:10). Those who plant the bad seeds of sin ("sowing to the flesh") will receive the bad fruit of damnation. Those who plant the good seeds of righteousness ("sowing to the Spirit") will receive the good fruit of eternal life. Either way, everyone "shall eat the fruit of their own way" (Prov. 1:31). What kind of seed are you sowing from day to day?

However, we all know that you cannot just sow even some good seed in a garden and then come back in several weeks and hope to enjoy good fruit. A garden that bears good fruit is one that is nurtured and maintained. Even so, in the garden of life, we must continue to sow the seeds of righteousness and maintain those good works to receive the good fruit of eternal

life. Paul said, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Gal. 6:9). Have you grown weary in caring for your spiritual garden?

All gardeners anticipate the time when they can reap the fruit of their labor. One universal truth of gardening is "you reap what you sow." No gardener would sow seed for corn and expect to reap peas. Similarly, when it comes to the garden of life, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Gal. 6:10). You cannot sow to the devil in this life and hope to reap the blessings of God in the next. What will you reap in eternity? How does you garden grow? -

## DUTY LIST...

### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Tim Thompson  
Reading: Proverbs 21:1-8
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
  - Lead.....Kenny Todd
  - Serve.....Jeff Isbell
  - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Jason Hubbard

### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Lord's Table.....Tim Thompson

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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