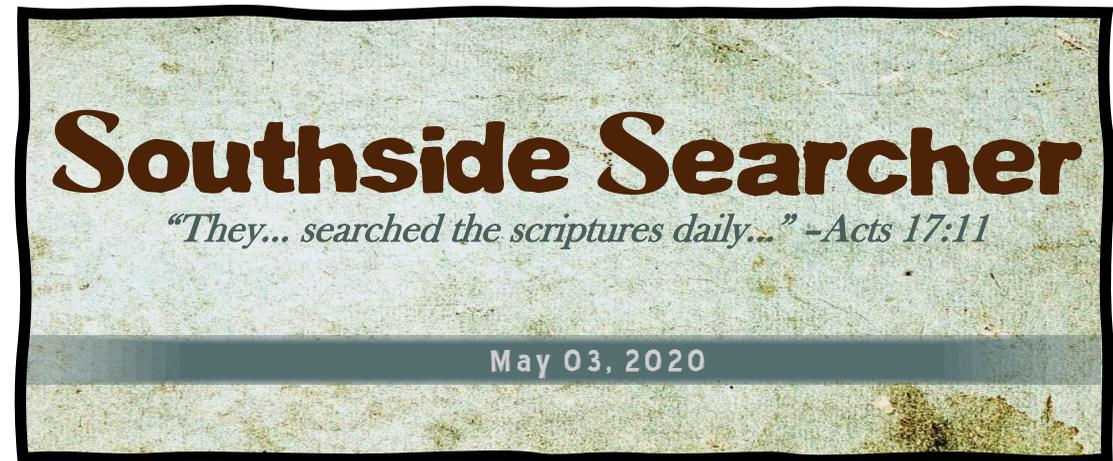


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| <p>DUTY LIST...</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford ➤ Scripture Reading...Eli Todd Reading: 1 John 5:6-13 ➤ Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson ➤ Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell ➤ Lord's Table: Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....Eli Todd Serve..... ➤ Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd <p>SUNDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scripture Reading... Reading: ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Lord's Supper..... <p>WEDNESDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Invitation..... | <p style="text-align: center;">God's Plan of Salvation</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Hear the Gospel:</u> Romans 10:17 ➤ <u>Believe:</u> Mark 16:16; John 8:24 ➤ <u>Repent of Sin:</u> Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30 ➤ <u>Confess Faith:</u> Romans 10:9, 10 ➤ <u>Be Baptized:</u> Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21 ➤ <u>Remain Faithful:</u> Rev. 2:10 <p style="text-align: center;">Obey Today!</p> |
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The Word Of Life

IN HIS FIRST EPISTLE, JOHN tells us about the “*Word of Life*” (1 John 1:1). We have common phrases today about the word “word”: “Have you received any word yet?” “I’ve just received word that...” These usually pertain to important matters, but there is no matter more important or essential to mankind than “*The Word of Life.*” John shows us...

1) The Word Bestowed. It was John who gave us that famous verse, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16). Here, as in John 1:1-2, he refers to Jesus as “*The Word.*” But why?

The Jews had great respect for the concept of the “Word of God” (Deuteronomy 26:17, 18), and (we’re told) the pagan Greeks taught a connection between deity and the concept of “The Word.” Perhaps it is correct to conclude that John meant to use a term that all could relate to deity.

In either case, Jesus is eternal, He was in the beginning before creation, and all created things were created by Him and through Him (John 1:1-2; Colossians 1:15-17). Further, it was through Him that God (The father) related His commands and will to man. “*God, Who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through*

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Southside Searcher, Volume 16, Number 10

Whom he also made the worlds" (Hebrews 1:1-3; see John 14:6).

2) The Word Beheld. John tells us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among men (John 1:14). He wrote, *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— The life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us"* (1 John 1:1-2).

We will never know the exact number of people who saw the Lord while He was in the flesh, but John speaks of a special witness. Those holding a part of the office of "The twelve" were with the Lord before He died; but they were especially chosen from those who saw Him after He arose. They touched Him, handled Him, saw Him alive - Resurrected! (1 John 1:1).

It was their witness and their declaration of what was seen (1 John 1:3) that ultimately brought you and me to the Lord. The Lord said, *"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"* (John 20:29).

3) The Word Believed. Faith is necessary to fellowship with God and other believers. John wrote, *"That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."* (1 John 1:3).

Of course, it must be an obedient faith. The Hebrews writer stated about Christ, *"though he was a Son, yet he learned obedience by the things which he suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him"* (Hebrews 5:8-9).

It has been said that John's greatest desire was for saints to love one another. Perhaps, but could it not have been rather that men come to believe? After all, that is why he wrote his Gospel account (John 20:31). Regarding salvation, have you received the Word yet? And is it your greatest desire that others come to believe?

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He's Speaking My Language

"We hear them speaking in our tongues the wonderful works of God"

- Acts 2:11

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHING we strongly agree with, we sometimes say, "He's speaking my language." In the passage above, The Holy Spirit enabled the Apostles to miraculously speak several different languages they had never studied. This amazed the listeners.

It's commendable that many considered the things the apostles said as "Wonderful." When we read the Bible, O how we need to be proclaiming within, "He's speaking my language." There are many in our day who, when they read the Bible do not agree with what they are reading. In fact, they often strongly disagree.

For example, in response to Jesus' words, "He Who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16), many quickly declare, "I disagree!" He's not speaking their language. In other words, while they claim to love and trust Jesus, they simply do not agree with Him that baptism is necessary for salvation.

Jesus wasn't speaking the language of many when He declared, "He who loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:37), for they will quickly dismiss their commitment to Christ in order to spare a relationship with a family member.

When the Bible speaks about the church of Christ (Romans 16:16) it isn't language many want to hear. They prefer man-made names for their "Churches" such as Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, et al.

The list could go on. For all of God's word to speak our language, we must first make up our mind to lay aside our own will and commit solely to doing the will of God (John 7:17). Is God speaking your language?

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