

DUTY LIST...**SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
 - Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell
Reading: Matthew 5:1-12
 - Song Leader.....Eli Todd
 - Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
 - Lord's Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Eli Todd
Serve.....
 - Closing Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- SUNDAY EVENING**
- Scripture Reading...
Reading:
 - Song Leader.....
 - Lord's Supper.....
- WEDNESDAY EVENING**
- Song Leader.....
 - Invitation.....

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; Acts 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!

www.defendthegospel.com

We would love to have you visit with us. Our meeting times are:

SUNDAYS: 9 & 10 AM & 6 PM / WEDNESDAYS: 7 PM

We have capable Bible teachers who would be delighted to study with you at your request and convenience.

Our evangelist, Michael Pickford is the editor of this publication.

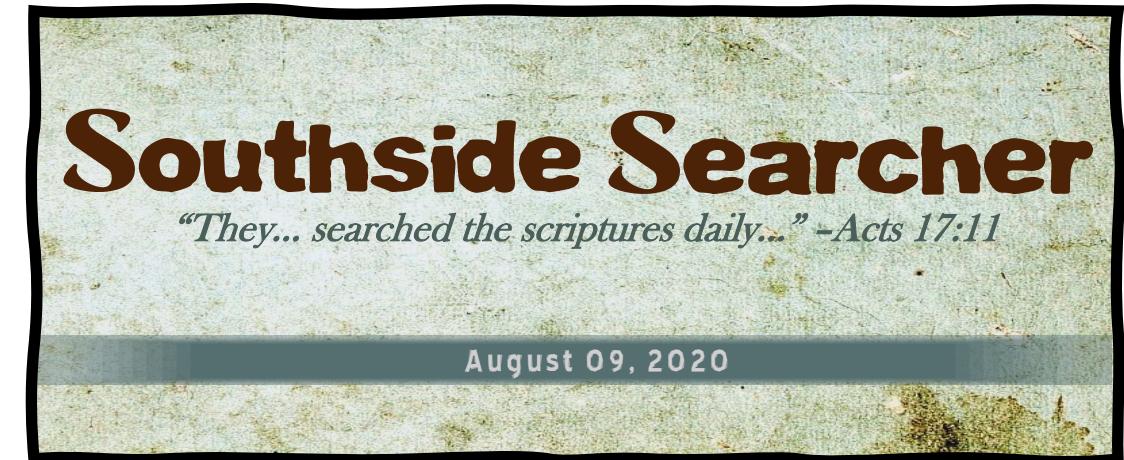
Please visit our website at www.defendthegospel.com

Bible Correspondance Courses Available At Your Request.

SOUTHSIDE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

1167 South Lowry Street, Smyrna, TN 37167 | 615-459-7854

Southside Searcher, Volume 16, Number 21



Witchcraft

WE MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT the sin of witchcraft. “*Rebellion is as the sin of Witchcraft*” (Isaiah 15:23). Witchcraft is a sin! Witchcraft has always been evil in the sight of God. “*And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger*” (2 Chronicles 33:6). Witchcraft is also listed among the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:20.

Witchcraft has taken many forms; today, we need to beware of fortune tellers, séances, witch boards (Ouija boards), Horoscopes, etc.

Another form of witchcraft includes the many superstitions we sometimes unwittingly involve ourselves in. Some examples would include placing a four-leaf clover in the Bible, hanging a horseshoe over the door, and rubbing a rabbit’s foot, etc. Negatively, walking under a ladder, having a black cat cross our path, and breaking a mirror, etc. are all supposed to bring us bad omens.

If rubbing a rabbit’s foot brings good luck, what is the driving supernatural force behind this “Good luck?” Is it God? No! The Bible nowhere tells us that rubbing a rabbit’s foot will result in God’s blessings; one must believe there is another supernatural force besides God when rubbing the rabbit’s foot. Is this not idolatry?

Let us rely on God as the source of all blessings (James 1:17) and beware of any form of witchcraft!

-Michael Pickford
Mpickford3@comcast.net

Not One

I would like to share with you an expression I came across in my reading of Scripture. Two words. "Not one".

In Exodus 8:31, I read where the Lord "*removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; there remained not one.*"

It is said in Exodus 9:6-7, "*all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one. And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead.*"

Exodus 10 reports, "*The Lord turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt*" (v. 19).

Joshua spoke these words in Israel's hearing: "*And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof*" (Josh. 23:14). The way some today talk, one would think a lot of things the Lord said concerning Israel failed. Yet Joshua declared, "*Not one thing failed!*"

Jesus said, "*Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.*" This "not one" teaching inspired the song, "His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me."

I'm making spiritual application of these words in our study.

THERE'S NOT A GOD LIKE THE ALMIGHTY; NOT ONE. When Israel crossed the Red Sea, Moses sang the song of redemption with these words: "*Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?*" (Ex. 15:11). That is a rhetorical question, to ask is to answer. But, if you need an answer, there is none greater than the one in Solomon's prayer at the temple dedication: "*Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath*" (1 Ki. 8:23). God created the heaven and the earth (Gen. 1:1). He spake and it was done (Ps. 33:9). He is "*The LORD, The LORD GOD, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth*" (Ex. 34:6). There is no other god like that. Not one!

THERE'S NOT A BOOK LIKE THE BIBLE; NOT ONE. The Bible is in a category all by itself. It is "*given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). It is the only book that contains everything we need, "*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness*" (2 Pet. 1:3). It alone tells us where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going when it's all over.

THERE'S NOT A SAVIOR LIKE JESUS; NOT ONE. The Bible presents Jesus as "*the saviour of the world*" (1 Jn. 4:14). Paul wrote, "*and he is the saviour of the body*" (Eph. 5:23). Peter made known the fact, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12). Jesus was born to save. It was said of Mary, "*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins*" (Mt. 1:21). He came to save. "*For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost*" (Mt. 18:11). There is not a sinner who has been too bad to be saved by Jesus; not one! Paul affirmed, "*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*" (1 Tim. 1:15).

THERE'S NOT A FAMILY LIKE GOD'S FAMILY; NOT ONE. The church of Christ is "*the household of God*" (Eph. 2:19). Ephesians 3:15 records, "*Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.*" We are children of God in Christ. "*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ*" (Gal. 3:26-27). God is the Father of this family (Eph. 4:6). This is the family that cares, where there are brothers and sisters who suffer and rejoice with one another (1 Cor. 12:25-26). The family where there is comfort and support (1 Th. 5:14). And, one will never have a greater inheritance than what he is line to inherit in this family, "*an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you*" (1 Pet. 1:4). Not one!

THERE'S NOT A FRIEND LIKE THE LOWLY JESUS; NOT ONE. The song, "No, Not One" also called, "There's Not A Friend" points out: "There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No, not one! no, not one!" Jesus declared, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you*" (Jn. 15:13-14). He is our "advocate" (1 Jn. 2:1) and makes "intercession" for us (Heb. 7:25).

THERE'S NOT ANOTHER TIME TO OBEY THE GOSPEL LIKE NOW; NOT ONE. Felix answered Paul, "*when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee*" (Acts 24:25). There's no record where that call was ever placed. There never will be a time as convenient as the present. 2 Corinthians 6:2 teaches, "*now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*" Jews on Pentecost responded to the gospel the same day. "*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls*" (Acts 2:41). The Ethiopian eunuch, "*commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him*" (Acts 8:38). The Philippian prison keeper took Paul and Silas "*the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway*" (Acts 16:33). As Ananias said unto Saul of Tarsus, "*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*" (Acts 22:16).

-John Edwards

Via <http://www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com>