DUTY LIST	God's Plan of Salvation
SUNDAY MORNING	There is only one true saving plan of
AnnouncementsMichael Pickford	Salvation outlined in Scripture. No
Scripture ReadingMichael Pickford	substitutes will do. Have you really
Reading: TBA	been saved? Get out your Bible and
Song LeaderLynn Buttrey	study the plan below.
Opening PrayerRobert Johnson	Hear the Gospel: Romans
Lord's Table:	10:17
LeadMichael Pickford	Believe: Mark 16:16; John
ServeEli Todd	8:24
Closing PrayerKenny Todd	Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; Acts
SUNDAY EVENING	17:30
Song Leader Michael Pickford	Confess Faith: Romans 10:9,
Opening PrayerMichael Pickford	10
Invitation: Eli Todd	Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Closing Prayer: Jeff Isbell	Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter
\triangleright	3:21
WEDNESDAY EVENING	<u>Remain Faithful</u> : Rev. 2:10
	Obey Today!

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

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

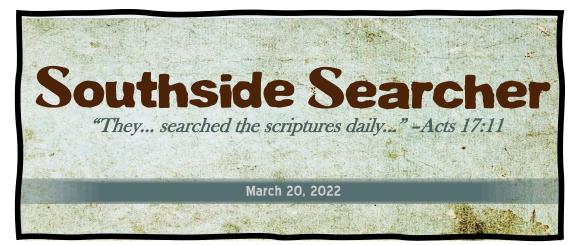
We have capable Bible teachers who would be delighted to study with you at your request and convenience.

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.





Those Who Have Not Seen

"Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." -John 20:29

We often give Thomas a hard time by tagging him with the name "Doubting Thomas." But what about "Believing Thomas?" After all, Thomas did come to believe and to spread the word. But, as per Jesus' words, those who believe in Jesus as God's Son without having seen Him are richly blessed. Did you ever think about these as including us? We believe based ultimately upon the testimony of those twelve men. And how blessed we are!

We are blessed if we act upon that belief. After believing, those in Acts chapter two asked what they needed to do (Acts 2:37). Peter didn't respond with, "*There's nothing more to do, you have believed, that's all that's necessary.*" No! Peter said, "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins*" (Acts 2:38; see Acts 22:16). Peter was simply stating what the Lord taught him to say in the great commission (Mark 16:15-16).

Those who do this today will be greatly blessed. We are blessed with the privilege of prayer. We are blessed with a more fulfilling life on earth by following God's directions in the Gospel. We are blessed with the fellowship of other believers. And ultimately, we are blessed with eternal life (1 Peter 1:3-5)! We haven't seen the Lord in the flesh, but if we remain faithful, we will see Him forever more in eternity (Revelation 2:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 John 3:2). -

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

Southside Searcher, Volume 18, Number 12

Control The Controllables

"Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" - yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring." - James 4:13-14a

How true! We have no way of knowing with certainty what tomorrow (if it be) will bring. Changes, surprises, unforeseen circumstances are a regular part of our life under the sun.

The war in Ukraine, heartbreaking. The rising gas prices, frustrating. The floods and winds that wreak havoc, tough to endure. All of these less than desirable realities bring suffering. So why do we allow them to happen? Real simple, they are beyond our control.

While there is much we cannot prevent, when it comes to the things that matter most, we DO have a say.

We CAN control our attitude.

We CAN control our determination to put God and His will first in our life.

We CAN, like Joshua, put our foot down and declare "... *as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD*." (Joshua 24:15)

We CAN make good on our duty to "*Fear God and keep his commandments*" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

We CAN, with Paul, determine, ". . . one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

While various circumstances spiral out of control, we would do well to prioritize and emphasize. God help us learn to control the controllables.

-David McPherson

Our Most Valuable Possessions

Sometimes insurance companies ask policy holders to make a list of their most valuable possessions. If you were to make a list of your most valuable possessions, what would they be?

THE SOUL. Man's most valuable possession is his soul. The soul is valuable because it is from God. The Lord "... *formeth the spirit of man within him*" (Zech. 12:1).

The soul is immortal. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" (Eccl. 12:7). The Lord asked, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mt. 16:26).

Have you insured your soul?

<u>TIME</u>. Time is so precious because it is equated with opportunities. We must use our time wisely!

The Psalmist penned, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Ps. 90:12).

Paul commanded, "*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time*" (Col. 4:5). We must buy up the opportunities as they present themselves!

INFLUENCE. Everyone possesses influence. By every act of my life I am influencing someone in either a positive or negative way.

The Bible teaches the power of influence. "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (2 Cor. 3:2). "...Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" (1 Cor. 5:7).

When we die, our influence will be left on earth. What kind of influence will we leave behind?