### DUTY LIST...

#### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- > Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford Reading: Psalm 128:1-6
- ➤ Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- > Opening Prayer......Kenny Johnson
- ➤ Lord's Table:
  - Lead.....Kenny Todd Serve.....Jeff Isbell
- Closing Prayer......Eli Todd

#### **SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.... Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer...Jeff Isbell
- Invitation: N/A
- Lord's Table: Michael Pickford
- Closing Prayer: Eli Todd

#### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader...Kenny Todd
- Invitation: Michael Pickford

#### **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.

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

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# Iron Sharpens Iron

"As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." - Proverbs 27:17

EVERYONE NEEDS A FRIEND they can "Let their hair down" with. More importantly, we need friends who can provide us with deep, thoughtful, and meaningful conversation. Has a friend ever said to you, "let me bounce something off of you?" The statement expresses a desire to hear your thoughts on an idea; to get your insight on something that is important to them.

Our Proverb above speaks of this very issue. A sharpened countenance implies a sharpened mind—a mind made more active, informed, creative, and intelligent. A man is poor when he has no friends, but a man may have friends and still be in poverty if he can't turn to his friends for advice and counsel, or to discuss ideas he deems important.

This principle is most important with spiritual and scriptural matters. I've learned key Bible truths from discussing God's word with friends in their living rooms, or in the foyer at the building. Also, God has provided leaders in the church to provide this type of instruction, both publicly and privately (Ephesians 4:11-14). We miss out on essential Bible teaching when we fail to attend the Bible studies of the church. And preachers, teachers, and elders should be your friends by making themselves available to you at any time to discuss a Bible question you may have.

> -Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

## **What Does Baptism Do?**

There is much confusion and controversy among religious people regarding baptism. It's always best to let scripture define a biblical word. So, get out your Bible and consider what baptism does.

- 1. <u>It saves</u>: Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- 2. <u>It washes away sins</u>: Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38. The blood of Christ alone cleanses our sins 1 Pt 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5. But this occurs at baptism. Otherwise, Acts 22:16 is meaningless.
- 3. <u>It puts one in Christ where salvation is</u>: Galatians 3:26-27; 2 Timothy 2:10; Romans 6:3.
- 4. <u>It pictures Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection</u>: Romans 6:1-5.
- 5. <u>It crucifies the old man of sin</u>: Romans 6:1-6.
- 6. <u>It creates a new man who is to set his mind on heaven</u>: Colossians 2:11-12/Colossians 3:1-2
- 7. <u>It constitutes a "burial</u>": Colossians 3:12. Sprinkling and pouring does not constitute biblical baptism.
- 8. <u>It puts one in the church, the body that Jesus saves</u>: Acts 2:40-41, 47; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:23.
- 9. It makes one obedient to God's command: Acts 10:48
- 10. It causes one to rejoice: Acts 8:38-39

Have you been biblically baptized? Why not now?!

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

# Honesty Is The Best Policy

For years it has been stated that "honesty is the best policy." Nonetheless, there have been and continue to be those who act otherwise - Those who want to lie, cheat, over-exaggerate, and deal dishonestly with others.

No matter how far from right this world may go, God's word must be respected. From it, we learn that honesty is commanded. Paul told the church at Rome to "provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Rom. 12:17). For the Corinthians he prayed that they might "do that which is honest..." (2 Cor. 13:7). Is any less expected of God's people today? Certainly not!

But someone says, "It doesn't hurt to tell a little white lie." "It's o.k. to stretch the truth to get what you want." "God understands if I have to cover up some minor details from time to time." Fact is, it does hurt, it's not o.k., and He doesn't understand! Whether "white", "slightly stretched", Or "just a cover up" - a lie is a lie! I wonder, have some not read, "...all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Rev. 21:8)? For the Christian, honesty is the only policy.

-David McPherson

o LORD of HOSTS,

BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO



- Psalm 84:12