

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Jeff isbell
Reading: Psalm 51:1-4
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey

SUNDAY EVENING

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

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!

We would welcome a visit from you. Our meeting times are:

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

Capable Bible teachers would be delighted to study with you at your request and convenience.

This bulletin is designed and produced by our evangelist, Michael Pickford.

Please visit our website at www.defendthegospel.com

SOUTHSIDE

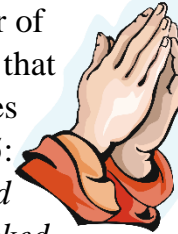
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Southside Searcher, Volume 19, Number 14

All Articles written and edited by Michael Pickford unless otherwise noted

Confidence in Prayers

We would all like to feel confident that God hears and considers our prayers (1 John 5:14). One way to acquire and maintain this confidence is by living righteous lives while avoiding evil. James tells us that it is the prayer of the righteous man that



avails much (James 5:16). Proverbs 15:29 says, *“The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.”* Peter quoted Psalm 34:15 when he wrote, *“For the eyes of the lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”* (1 Peter 3:12). Isaiah 59:1-2 stresses to God’s people that His ears are not open to their prayers due to their sin and iniquity. Sin separates us from God and consequently closes God’s ears

Memory Verse

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us.”

— 1 John 5:14

to our prayers. It is not that God isn’t aware that the sinner is praying. He can even understand a rebellious sinner’s prayer and realize his requests. But God will not act based upon those prayers because the sinner has not repented of and removed his sinful ways. If one desires full confidence that God hears and responds to his prayers, he must have his sins removed by the blood of Christ, and then continue to live a faithful and righteous life before the Lord (Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5; Revelation 2:10)-

Redeeming The Time

Ephesians 5:16 states, "*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*" This verse calls for Christians to make the most of their time, to use it wisely and with purpose. The idea of "redeeming" time implies that time is valuable and should be used to its fullest potential. Life is short and uncertain, and we do not know what tomorrow may bring (James 4:14). We are all given a limited amount of time on this earth, and it is our responsibility to use it wisely. The time that we have been given is a gift from God, and we are accountable to Him for how we use it.

The Greek word translated as "redeem" in this verse is "exagorazo," which means to buy up, to rescue from loss, or to take advantage of an opportunity. To redeem the time, then, means to make the most of every opportunity God gives us, to use our time wisely, and to invest it in things that are eternal while avoiding wasting it on things that are unimportant. Time is a precious resource that we cannot get back once it is gone. Therefore, we must invest it in things that will make a positive spiritual impact on our lives and the lives of others.

The verse also states that we should redeem the time "*because the days are evil.*" This phrase suggests that time is in short supply and that we must be intentional about using it for good. We live in a world where evil is prevalent, and we cannot afford to waste our time on things that have no eternal value. Instead, we should focus on things that will influence the worldly people around us toward acknowledging and glorifying God (Matthew 5:13-16).

We can redeem the time by prioritizing our time according to what matters most. We must determine what our goals and values are and make choices that align with them. For example, if spending time with family, praying, and studying the Bible are important to us, we should prioritize

these over other activities that are less important. We must also avoid overindulging in time-wasting activities that do not contribute to our goals or values, such as excessive social media scrolling, binge-watching TV shows, or playing gaming apps. Clean entertainment is needed, but too much can rob us of precious time.

Another way to redeem the time is to use it to serve others. We can make a positive impact on the world and lay up treasures in heaven by investing our time in serving others (1 Timothy 6:18-19; Romans 12:13, 15). This can begin with acts as simple as sending a card with an encouraging message or spending time with someone who needs encouragement. Offer to help a neighbor with a task at hand, visit a widow and the elderly, volunteer at a local nursing home or rehab center, invite friends, neighbors, or co-workers over for dinner, prepare a meal for, or simply visit and pray with someone who is sick or recovering from surgery. By serving others, we are investing our time in something that has eternal value for us as well as laying the groundwork for something that may have eternal value for those we serve—sharing the gospel with them (Mark 16:15-16).

Time flies, as the saying goes, so we must be intentional about how we spend our time by making the most of every moment for the Lord. We can avoid wasted time by setting Christ-centered goals, prioritizing them, creating a schedule, serving others, and eliminating distractions.

In conclusion, redeeming the time is an essential principle for Christians (Colossians 4:5). By doing so, we can make a positive impact on the world and fulfill God's purpose for our lives by being full of good works and laying the foundation for winning souls (Ephesians 2:10; Proverbs 11:30). -
