

## POWER LINES

Michael Pickford

The Power lines we see every day lining the sides of our roadways are marvelous things. They connect the world with power sources which brings light to the homes of millions. I guess we could say they are bringing light to a world in darkness.

While they are delivering this light, they must endure rain, snow, hail, sleet; the storms of life. What marvelous things, these power lines.

But, you know, Christians are also to bring light to a world of darkness. The Lord said "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14) and "Let your light so shine before men..." (Matthew 5:16). This verse goes on to teach that

the light we shine forth (Our good works) could cause others to glorify God.

Philippians 2:15 says, "...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

An Old song says "Send the Light." Like power lines, We too must endure the storms of life as we are sending this light. In fact, we will suffer persecution simply because we are light bearers (2 Tim. 3:12). Sometimes a power line snaps and falls. Don't let this happen to you (Revelation 2:10). 

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



## COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 60 Second daily Radio Spot, "Moment of Truth." WGNS 100.5 FM, 101.9 FM, 1450 AM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Children's Class, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 5:30 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm



# SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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*"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11*

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## PROCRASTINATION

Michael Pickford

To procrastinate is to postpone action. Procrastination has surely robbed thousands of hours of productive labor. But procrastination is most lethal in spiritual matters. Especially when considering obedience the Gospel.

Example. The Bible gives us a classic example of one who procrastinated. We read in Acts 24:22-27 of a man named Felix. Felix was interested in hearing Paul proclaim to him the message of Christ. Paul spoke to him about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, and he thought very carefully about these things. In fact, the thought of them made him tremble with fear! (vs. 25). One would think that this man would obey the Lord and become a faithful servant of Jesus right away. This was not the case. Sadly, after hearing and trembling, Felix responded, "*Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you,*" How sad! How tragic! Felix made a decision which affected His eternal destiny; and he made the wrong decision. He decided to put off obedience to the Gospel.

Exhortation. As soon as we hear and believe, and are mature enough to understand the ramifications of our

sins, we must obey the Gospel! That is, we must repent of our sins (Acts 2:38), confess our faith in the Lord (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized to have our sins washed away (Acts 22:16). The Bible exhorts us to do this promptly. "*Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation*" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

The Philippian Jailor was baptized in the "same hour of the night" (Acts 16:33). The verse uses the word "Immediately." We don't know when the Lord might return (1 Thessalonians 5:2).

Expiration. We live in a world where expiration dates are a big part of our lives. We have expiration dates on our milk, our bread, our medicines, etc. Most people see the need to use up what they have before it expires, or else they will have to incur a loss. Why can't people see this same need when it comes to their souls? This is infinitely more urgent. We are not given our expiration date. No one knows when they will die. The foolish man in Luke 12:13-21 was preparing for a long prosperous life. He had no idea his life would expire that very night! (See also James 4:13-17). Don't procrastinate, you may wait too late! 

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# REPETITION IN PRAYER

Michael Pickford

A sincere brother told me years ago that whenever he prays, including at the dinner table, he's always careful to use different words. There may be some useful aspects to this type of practice, but he believed that any repetition in prayer is sinful. Let's consider this from scripture.

Jesus said "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think they will be heard for their many words" (Matthew 6:7). Some conclude from this passage that the Lord condemns any repetition in prayer. But this isn't what the Lord said. He forbade VAIN repetitions. There is a difference.

Some may repeat fancy phrases they have heard others say. Others may author their own fancy phrases and repeat them often in prayers. Even this isn't necessarily wrong. Jesus was condemning improper motivations. The Pharisees desired to be heard, not by God, but by men. They wanted others to come to them later and flatter them because of their "Beautiful prayer." It's encouraging when someone compliments you in

this way, but if your purpose in praying is to receive this man-praise, then you have a heart problem. Your motivations are impure.

Repetition in prayer with a pure motive is certainly acceptable to God. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done" (Matthew 26:42). Then, after finding His disciples sleeping, "He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words" (Matthew 26:44). He said the same words! He used repetition. But the difference is that He was sincere in His prayer. He wasn't praying to impress other men. He was sincerely speaking to God.

I often hear brethren repeat age old phrases in prayer. It is my impression that these brethren are sincere in these prayers. I often use phrases that I either heard from someone else, or came up with on my own. Whenever I bless the meal at home, I usually use the same exact words. Sincerity is the key. Just be careful not to let Satan misconstrue your motives. Seek God's praise, not the praise of man. 🔍

## A GOOD DEED HELPS EVERYONE!

If the devil cannot make you puffed up with pride, he will try to dampen your spirit by discouragement and anxiety. I've always thought that the best remedy for a dampened spirit due to worry over a problem is to encourage and help someone else who is dealing with a difficult situation. "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad" (Proverbs 12:25).



## SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

### Honesty is the Only Policy!

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

Introduction:

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....John Nelson  
Reading: Matthew 5:33-37
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Ben Reagh  
Serve.....Chris Meade  
Serve.....Robert Johnson

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Ben Reagh

#### Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader..... Ben Green
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

### 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

**Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!**

**Obey Today!**