

IT DOESN'T WORK

Michael Pickford

If I have a printer that doesn't print it's useless to me. It doesn't work. If I have a toaster that doesn't toast, it's equally useless and will be placed next to the printer in the dump. Things which do not do what they were created to do are useless to us. The thing to do is to get rid of them, or fix them so that they perform their intended functions. After all, they don't work!

What about Christians? We are God's "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Eph. 2:10). God created us in Christ Jesus for a purpose. If we have able bodies but are not busy doing the works He created us to do, we are useless to Him.

Even those without able bodies can do one of the greatest works of all: Pray!

We bear fruit in Christ by doing good works. Peter said we prevent becoming fruitless by adding to our faith virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love (2 Peter 1:5-7). These things take work and adding them causes us to function as God intended. Without them, we are barren and unfruitful (2 Peter 1:8). What does God do with the fruitless? They are cut off and cast into the fire (Jn. 15:1-8). If we think we can fly into heaven on the wings of indifference and inactivity, it doesn't work! 🔍

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
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 60 Second daily Radio Spot, "Moment of Truth." WGNS 100.5 FM, 101.9 FM, 1450 AM
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Children's Class, 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5:30 pm
- 5th 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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DO NOT BE DECEIVED!

Michael Pickford

Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:13, "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." The declining moral nature of our society should cause all of us much alarm. It is imperative that we do not let our adversary, the devil, deceive us regarding sin.

Alcohol. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1). Most Christians recognize drunkenness as a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:21), and that drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). But Satan attempts to deceive us by trying to get us to reason in such a way as to justify one drink, or even social drinking. Interestingly, Peter used three Greek words which condemn all stages of drinking, from that first drink to the "Slobbering drunk" state (1 Peter 4:3).

Associations. "Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits" (1 Corinthians 15:33). We must live in the wicked world around us without allowing it to influence us to evil (1 Cor. 5:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2). Even though we must go to school with, work with, and shop with the wicked people of

the world, we must be careful about our friendships with them. While we should seek some level of friendship with them in order to influence and teach them for good, we cannot be around them while they are partaking in their evil deeds. We don't watch the ball game with them while they're drinking. We don't drive them around while they are drinking. We don't listen to and laugh at their lewd jokes and comments. Some think they can handle it, that they won't be influenced. Don't be deceived!

Accountability. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7)." Often, there are severe earthly consequences for the sins men commit. But often, men think they are getting away with their sins because there seems to be no earthly consequences. Sometimes men take their secrets to the grave. But do not be deceived, you have not escaped accountability for your sins. "Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later" (1 Timothy 5:24). Repent before it's too late. Don't think God will not punish you for the sins you keep hidden from others. God sees all (Proverbs 15:3). 🔍

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GOVERNMENT

Michael Pickford

“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God” (Romans 13:1). To this Peter adds, “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake...” (1 Pet. 2:13-15a).

As children of God, we are to obey the laws of the land. Some want to ignore certain laws, dismissing them as silly; but in order to be faithful to God we must submit to them. There are some who ignore stop signs, exceed the speed limit, or decline to pay certain taxes simply because they see no use for them. It is not ours to question; we are to obey the laws, and those who do not will have to answer for it.

Some suggest that because our government is “evil” we are therefore exempt from submitting. Nothing could be further from the truth. When Peter and Paul wrote the above words, a very wicked government ruled, one that encouraged idolatry. Nevertheless, God said to submit. I would dare say that in relation to the

Roman government of the first century our government is rather fair and sane.

But what if the government requires me to do something that God would not want me to do? Or what if the government decrees that I refrain from doing something God has commanded me to do? God allows for these instances. John and Peter were arrested for preaching the Gospel. They were commanded not to speak in the name of Jesus again. They answered, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge” (Acts 4:19). Peter later said, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). We should always obey our government whenever their laws do not conflict with the commandments of God. Even if some of them conflict with God’s commands, we must still obey those that don’t.

The government derives its authority from God. As such, we must obey the laws of the land no matter how silly they may sometimes seem to us. We are exempt from obeying only those laws which contradict God’s will. 🔍

WATCH YOUR MOUTH!

Have you ever been told to watch your mouth? Perhaps as a child, but sadly, many adults need to watch their mouths. A person’s maturity level can usually be determined by what comes out of his mouth. Filthy language makes one look ignorant and immature. When one uses foul language he disrespects every decent person within earshot. “Put away from you a devious mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.” –Proverbs 4:24 (See Colossians 3:8)



SERMON NOTES

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

Christian Lane (4)

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....John Nelson
Reading: Proverbs 15:31-33
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Chris Meade
Serve.....Robert Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord’s Table.....Michael Pickford

Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader..... Lynn Buttrey
- 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!

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**