

## WISDOM?

Michael Pickford

*“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.”* (1 Cor. 3:18).

Think of our modern day “intellectuals.” Consider the Biologists. Mostly atheists, they spend the bulk of their time studying life. It’s sad. They know the ways OF life, but ignore the way TO life. And what about the Astronomers? They can tell you a great deal about the stars, the solar systems, the rotation rates of the planets, etc. Yet, many of them are atheists. It’s a shame. They know the ways OF the heavens, but reject the way TO heaven. And what about the Geologists? Many

of them are atheists. They spend much of their time and energy studying the ages of the rocks. They can tell you a great deal about how old they think rocks are. They come across in an impressive way as they impart their “wisdom.” It’s sad. They spend their lives worrying about the age of the rocks while they ignore the Rock of ages.

Paul gives the remedy in the verse above. They need to recognize that in all of their worldly wisdom they are fools. They suppose themselves to be wise in this age, yet they are ignorant of the living way. The remedy? *“let him become a fool that he may be wise.”* 🔍

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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## CHOKED OUT!

Michael Pickford

Jesus said “Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful” (Matthew 13:22). This is possibly the most dangerous type of seed because often Christians actually leave the Lord and not even realize they are gone. They reason that they are doing just enough to get by while most of their time is consumed by things in the world.

Some are choked out by their endeavors. “There is much to do there’s work on every hand.” So says the song we sometimes sing. But some Christians are simply too busy to do spiritual work. They have their hobbies, they have their work, they have their education, etc. These are things that are not sinful in and of themselves. They simply take up so much time that the pursuit of them keeps a child of God from labors in the kingdom like studying God’s word daily, praying, preparing for their Bible classes, etc. Redeem the time, for the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16).

Some are choked out by their entertainment. Some Christians know the stats of their favorite sports

figure better than they know the word of God. Some could write accurate and exciting reviews about the latest video game but couldn’t defend with scripture an important Bible doctrine (1 Peter 3:15). Some could talk for hours about their favorite movies and TV programs but would fail miserably when it comes to discussing spiritual matters. They spend hours playing something or watching something but “Just didn’t have time” to study, pray or share their faith. They’re choked out!

Some are choked out by their excuses. “I’m not smart enough to share my faith.” “Visiting the sick is not my talent, someone else is better at that.” Some of the excuses used to miss the services are deplorable (Hebrews 10:25). Many Christians are going to excuse themselves right out of heaven.

I say that this is possibly the most dangerous seed because the things that choke Christians out and cause them to be unfruitful are often things that in and of themselves are not sinful. Many movies, TV programs, sports games, etc. are not inherently sinful. Nor is pursuing an education or working to make a living. The danger is in letting these things keep us from doing the Lord’s work. 🔍

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# PREDESTINATION

Michael Pickford

The Calvinistic doctrine of predestination basically teaches that before the worlds were ever formed God chose certain individual people, even by name, who were going to be saved, and certain ones who were going to be lost.

The Bible does teach predestination, but not this Calvinistic type. Calvin got his doctrine from a twisting of passages like Ephesians 1:4, 5 which says, "Just as He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having **predestined** us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will."

As with any difficult passage, whatever conclusion we come to on it can not contradict other passages that are plain and simple. Calvin's understanding is faulty because it contradicts other plain passages of scripture. For example, Paul wrote, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, Who desires **all men** to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim.

2:3, 4; see also 2 Peter 3:9). If God desires all men to be saved, He would not have chosen any to be lost. Everyone would be saved! Eph. 1:4, 5 cannot mean what Calvin said they mean.

What do these verses mean? In the context of the book of Ephesians, Paul is discussing those who are in Christ (1:3, 1:10, 11), in the body (1:22, 23) in the church (2:9). Christ is the "*Savior of the **body***" (Eph. 5:23), so those who choose to get into that body (The church) will be saved. The **church** was "*according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (Eph. 3:10, 11) so predestination, as taught by Paul, teaches that God, before the foundation of the world, decided to save all those who choose to get into the body, the church. "*Just as He chose us **in Him**, before the foundation of the world*" (Eph. 1:4). God chose to save all who from their own free will choose to get into Christ (2 Timothy 2:10).

Do you want to be saved? Then you must choose get "**in Him**" through baptism (Gal. 3:26, 27).

## STOP AND THINK!

So who's wiser, the man who talks without thinking or the man who thinks without talking? Many people have placed themselves in embarrassing and even dangerous situations by speaking first then thinking later. Feelings have been unnecessarily hurt, relationships have been torn apart, and friendships have been destroyed from a lack of thoughtful speech. "Those who control their tongue will have a long life; a quick retort can ruin everything." –Proverbs 13:3



# SERMON NOTES

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

## Twisted Scripture

STUDY DAILY!  
Acts 17:11

Introduction:

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

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

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

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Kenny Johnson  
Reading: 2 Peter 3:14-16
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Brad Todd

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

#### Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader..... Ben Reagh
- 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

**Obey Today!**

**Home Bible Studies Available Upon Request!**