

## GETTING MAIL

Michael Pickford

Many people get very excited about going to the mail box. It's always refreshing to get mail from a friend or loved one. It's especially nice receiving cards for birthdays and anniversaries. Some even enjoy sorting through various pieces of junk mail.

Consider how excited a young person feels when they receive a "love" letter from that special someone.

Isn't it a shame that folks don't show the same type of excitement over reading the Bible? The Bible has been called God's love letter to us. Indeed, it is a love letter! It speaks of how He demonstrated His love toward us by sending His Son to die for us (Romans

5:8). It also directs us on how we should live our lives on this earth. Furthermore, it pictures the great love of Christ as He returns to receive His faithful into the glories of heaven.

Folks look forward to going to their mailboxes on a daily basis. Instead of Bible study being something we look at as a burden, it should be something we excitedly look forward to each day (Acts 17:11).

We should have an attitude that says, "I just can't wait to open that spiritual mailbox and read God's letter." *"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day"* (Psalm 119:97). Have you been to the mailbox today?

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!**



# SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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## OPEN UP!


Michael Pickford

Matthew was sitting in his tax office when Jesus approached him. He had been looking into the faces of men who despised him all day long. What a joy it must have been when he looked up and saw the loving, kind face of the Savior. We learn much from Matthew in Matthew 9:9-13.

Matthew opened up his heart to Jesus. When Jesus said "follow me," Matthew "arose and followed Him." There are many who hear the saving Gospel and close their hearts. They put off obedience to the Lord either through rebellion or procrastination. When one hears and believes the Gospel, it is important that he obey from the heart that form of doctrine (Rom. 6:17). Otherwise, he will be punished with everlasting destruction (2 Thess. 1:7-9). Open up your heart to Jesus in obedience!

Matthew opened up his home for Jesus (Matt. 9:10). We open up our home to Jesus every time we show hospitality (Matt. 25:40). We open up our homes to Jesus by living godly and allowing only godly things in our homes. If we drink, cuss, practice fornication, etc. in our homes, we have shut the door to Jesus. The same is true if we allow others to entertain us with

These things via television and other forms of entertainment. Jesus isn't comfortable in these types of situations because He doesn't approve of them. Have you opened up your home to Jesus, or have you made Him feel unwelcomed? Deny ungodliness in your home (Titus 2:12). Provide an atmosphere that would make the Lord feel at home in your house.

Matthew opened up his hands for Jesus. He went out and preached the Gospel (Matt. 10:1-4). He put his hands to work for the Lord. Christians must open up their hands for the Lord. We need to be busy living godly and setting forth the right teaching example by the way we live (Matt. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:14-16). We need to open up our hands for the Lord by trying to teach the Gospel to our friends, neighbors, co-workers, family, etc.. We need to open up our hands by studying, praying, and attending church services. We need to open up our hands by working for the Lord, just as Matthew did, and, just as we are commanded and created in Christ to do (Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:14). Matthew left all in order to open up for Jesus. He opened up his heart, his home, and his hands for the Lord. Don't shut the Lord out of your life...Open Up!!! 

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# REBUKES


Michael Pickford

I am aware of no one who enjoys either giving or receiving a rebuke; yet the task must be done. *“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him”* (Luke 17:3). This commandment must not be ignored or neglected. If you find your brother in sin, rebuke him!

Suppose a brother has committed a sin either against you or in general. If he does not repent his soul is in jeopardy. What do you do? This depends on whether or not you truly love him. If you don't really love him you will simply disregard the sin, ignore it, and just let the whole thing pass. By doing so, you not only jeopardize his soul, but yours as well. *“When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surly die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked of his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand”* (Ezekiel 33:8).

Don't be a coward. Muster up the courage; no one likes to do it but it must be done; rebuke your brother! If he repents you have saved his soul from death and covered a multitude of sins

(James 5:19-20). If he doesn't repent you have at least saved your own soul. Remember too that this rebuke should not be done in a haughty, “holier than thou” spirit. Rebukes must be given with love, concern and humility (Galatians 6:1).

Suppose you are the one receiving a rebuke. How are you going to react? Some may be inclined to get angry and retaliate. He may even lash out at his “rebuker” by pointing out some of his shortcomings. “The gall of this person (who is also a sinner) rebuking me! Just who does he think he is?” I'll tell you who he is; he's someone who loves you and is concerned about your soul! The wounds of a friend are faithful (Proverbs 27:6). Without his rebuke you might go on in your sin and lose your soul. When I receive a justified rebuke I need to be thankful and humble toward the one who loved me enough to correct me. I must confess my sin, repent of it, and ask for forgiveness (Proverbs 28:13; Acts 8:20-21; 1 John 1:8-9; James 5:16). I have now properly received a rebuke and handled the situation in a biblical and loving manner. 

## THANKS FOR YOUR WORK!

Our Gospel Meeting was very well-attended throughout the entire week. This is thanks to the hard work and dedication of each and every one of you. We were all blessed with some wonderful spiritual lessons from brother Morrison. We were also blessed to have the opportunity to see each other every day and to worship and praise the Lord. Our next Gospel Meeting is scheduled in October with Danny Allen doing the preaching. Mark you calendars!



# SERMON NOTES

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

## Spiritual Identity Theft

Introduction:

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

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

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

STUDY DAILY! Acts 17:11

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Sam Miller  
Reading: 1 John 4:1-6
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Ben Green  
Serve.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....Chris Meade

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Ben Green

#### Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Invitation.....Brad Todd

**Home Bible Studies Available Upon Request!**

### 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!**