

THE APPLE OF YOUR EYE

Michael Pickford

We're familiar with the phrase, "The apple of my eye." We often speak of someone as the apple of our eye. A father may speak of his daughter as the apple of his eye. A man may speak of his bride as the apple of his eye. I once heard a man speak of his car as the apple of his eye. What does this mean?

The eye is situated in a unique place in the body. It is buried deep in the socket of the face. It is surrounded by the forehead, the brow, the cheekbone, the eye lashes, the eyebrows. God has placed it in such a place that the hands can quickly come to its defense. All of this is for protection!

The Psalmist prayed, "Keep me as the

apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings" (Psalm 17:8). The apple of the eye speaks of the very center of the eye. The Psalmist used two figures, both of which asks God to put him in a place of protection and security. If someone is the apple of my eye, that means they are precious to me, and I would do anything to protect them from harm.

God has promised us spiritual protection and security. If we obey the Gospel he will keep us as the apple of his eye. He has given us His word, the avenue of prayer, and our brethren to help keep us faithful against the roaring lion who seeks to devour us. 🔍

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!



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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Michael Pickford

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10). Christ will be our righteous judge on the last day. We learn in the Bible some things that will occur before the Lord's judgment seat...

SECRETS WILL BE REVEALED. Sometimes we think we're getting away with our wrongdoing. It's true that we may sometimes pull the wool over the eyes of others. Some men are successful in taking their secrets to the grave with them. But resurrection day will be a time when the bodies will come out of the graves and the skeletons will come out of the closets.

"God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ" (Romans 2:16). "For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Do not seek to hide your iniquities, confess and forsake them now, before it's too late and receive God's mercy forgiveness (Psalm 32:5). "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" (Psalm 28:13).

SINNERS WILL BE REJECTED. The Gospel calls on the sinner to hear, believe in the Lord, repent of sins, confess his faith, and be baptized in order to have his sins forgiven, so that he might be saved (Romans 10:17; John 8:24; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). Those who reject the Gospel call and fail to "Obey the Gospel" will be punished with everlasting destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). John depicted this place as a lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:8). No wonder Paul, when contemplating the judgment seat of Christ, was reminded of the "Terror of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:11-11). Those who fail to remain faithful to the Lord's law will also be rejected on the last day (Matthew 7:21-23). Obey today and remain faithful to the Lord until death (Revelation 2:10)....

SAINTS WILL BE REWARDED. On the other hand, those who obey the Gospel and remain faithful to the Lord will receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). Instead of hearing "Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness," the faithful will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:23). 🔍

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POPE?

Michael Pickford

Recently, the Pope of the Catholic church resigned and had to be replaced. This reminds me of some interesting and important thoughts regarding the "Pope."

First, the word "Pope" comes from a Latin word meaning "Father." The Lord taught plainly that in a religious sense we are to call no one "Father" (Matthew 23:9). Based on this verse, appointing a "Pope" and calling him such is tantamount to trying to replace our real Father Who is in heaven.

Second, where in the Bible do we read about an office in the church known as the "Pope?" The Bible is clear about the proper organization of the Lord's church. It includes saints, overseers, and deacons (Philippians 1:1). Overseers (Bishops), also known as elders and pastors, are to meet specific qualifications in order to serve in that position. The same is true with the deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-13). Where do we read of a "Pope" and his qualifications? Is the concept of a Pope not an addition to God's word, and will that not sever one's relationship with God? (2 John 9).

Third, Catholicism teaches that the Pope is the head of the church on earth. I'm reminded of the Bible teaching that Christ has been appointed as the head of the church, which is His body (Ephesians 1:22-23). The entire concept of a Pope being head of the church is absent from the Bible and challenges the Lord's headship and His ability to rule in His kingdom. Christ shares His headship with no one!

Fourth, the Catholic Pope regularly receives worship both in how he is addressed and in acts performed upon him. He is to be bowed down to, and his ring is often kissed by worshippers. Further, he is often addressed with titles such as, "Your holiness," and "Most holy Father." Ironically, Peter, whom they erroneously claim was the first Pope, rejected any attempt of anyone bowing down to him. He reminded Cornelius that he was a mere man (Acts 10:25-26). I wonder if the Pope trembles when he reads 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

Fifth, the Pope is given the authority to legislate, that is, to make new laws, and even rescind old laws that regulate the church. Do any of the one billion plus Catholics care that the Bible emphatically says that there is only one Lawgiver? (James 4:12). Christ was given ALL authority both in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). Where does this leave the "Pope?" 🔍

*"...And they spoke
the word of God
with boldness"*

-Acts 4:31

SERMON NOTES

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

**STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11**

God's Questionnaire

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Glenn Isbell
Reading: Psalm 15:1-5
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Ben Green
Serve.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....Michael Pickford
- Closing Prayer.....Robert Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- 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

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**

Obey Today!