

## KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON!

Michael Pickford

One of my preacher friends was preaching a Gospel Meeting some years back. Some of the younger men from the church there approached him with a concern they had about "Ole brother so-an-so." They said, "Brother \_\_\_\_\_, can you please speak to him, every time he leads prayer, he keeps using the phrase 'Lord, please help us to keep on keepin' on.'"

My friend told them, "You know, I think I will speak to "ole brother so and so." They asked, "What are you going to say to him?" He said, "I'm going to tell him to just keep on keepin' on."

The Lord said, "*Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of*

*Life*" (Revelation 2:10). But in a world in which we are surrounded and bombarded by temptations to sin, frustrations, being disappointed by others, health problems, and persecutions, Revelation 2:10 is easy to quote, but not always so easy to carry out.

It is certainly an appropriate and essential prayer to ask faithfully and repeatedly for the Lord to give us the strength, courage, and stamina we need to "Keep on keepin' on."

*"...Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). 🔍

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

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry  
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

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

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## THE PERFECT FATHER

Michael Pickford

A friend of mine who had several children once told me that he started out at a very young age as a father. He was still a kid himself, and was overwhelmed with the prospect of raising children. He finally decided that the best course to follow was to look to the perfect Father – God. He raised seven children, all of whom are now adults, all of whom are faithful Christians, and all his children who are married have spouses who are faithful Christians. What a legacy! In the Bible, we see that God, as the perfect Father...

**Provides.** In a general sense, God is the Father of all mankind in that He created all of us. The Lord taught that in a general sense God provides for all of His creation. "For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). But God has especially promised to provide for His children in Christ, both physically and spiritually. Physically, He has promised to provide those who seek Him first with food, clothing, and shelter (Matthew 6:25-34). Spiritually, Paul tells us that God "Has blessed us with every spiritual blessing..." (Ephesians 1:3); and Peter tells us

that God "Has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). James reminds us that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17). A loving earthly father will also provide for his children both physically and spiritually (1 Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 6:1-4).

**Protects.** God is clearly seen in the Bible as a great protector of His children. "I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8). Through the full armor of God, God has provided us the protection we need from our adversary the devil (Ephesians 6:10-18). A Loving earthly father will provide protection for his children. Many fathers are abusive, and their children fear they will be harmed or even killed by their father. What a tragedy! Fathers need to seek to protect their children both physically and spiritually.

**Punishes.** Down through the ages, God has punished His children because He loves them (Hebrews 12:5-11). The Bible says, "He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly" (Proverbs 13:24). 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

# CRITICIZING THE CRITICAL

Michael Pickford

WARNING: THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE CRITICISM IS TO CRITICIZE THOSE WHO CRITICIZE!

Does that make sense? This seems to be the case these days. It's true that God hates "One who sows discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:19b), but is this not speaking of those who stir up strife over personal opinions? After all, the Lord Himself sent His disciples into the world with a message that He knew would cause stark division between the closest, most intimate of relationships (Matthew 10:34-39).

There are some who have a knack for picking fights (arguments) and causing dissension over spiritually irrelevant matters. The Bible would call these folks "Quarrelsome" (1 Timothy 3:3). But in our zeal to eradicate this devilish disposition among us, let's not forget that sometimes a spiritual battle is necessary, and division is called for. When authentic false doctrine rears its ugly head, are we not to "Contend for the faith?" (Jude 3).

When some were trying to substitute a false plan of salvation (Physical circumcision) for God's true plan of salvation, isn't it true that "Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them?" (Acts 15:1-2). Yes, that's the same Barnabas who was the great encourager, yet when error threatened, he fought! He criticized that error! One should be a great encourager, but the most encouraging thing he can do when religious error threatens is to stand up and fight against it!

In the face of being criticized for criticizing religious error, let's fight anyway. Let's pray for the courage we need to "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13). 📖

Thanks to everyone who  
helped make our Gospel  
Meeting a Success!  
Meeting a Success!  
It was well attended.

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### A Faith-Filled Father

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Kenny Todd  
Reading: Joshua 24:14-17
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Ben Reagh
- Closing Prayer.....Robert Johnson

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

*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!**

