

AN ENLARGED HEART

Michael Pickford


Physically speaking it is not a desirable thing to have an enlarged heart. This would mean that something is seriously wrong and one's life could be in jeopardy. But spiritually speaking, we should pray that God will indeed enlarge our heart.

"I will run the course of Your commandments, For You shall enlarge my heart" (Psalm 119:32).

The enlarged heart here is connected to and is a consequence of running in the course of God's commandments. So the enlarged heart isn't speaking of increasing knowledge, it's speaking of the joy and bliss one experiences when he knows he has done the will of

God by obeying His commandments, as opposed to the guilt and oppression of mind one experiences when he disobeys God.

Psalm 119 begins like Psalm 1 by pronouncing a blessing on the one who forms his or her life according to the Word of God. *"Blessed is the man [whose]...delight is in the law of the Lord"* (Psalm 1:1-2).

Disobeying God brings bondage and gloom, while obedience brings liberty and contentment. *"The truth shall set you free"* (John 8:32). Ultimately, disobedience brings eternal destruction, while obedience secures eternal joy (2 Ths. 1:7-9; Hebrews 5:8-9). 

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



- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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THE WORLD THROUGH GOD'S EYES

Michael Pickford

Last week my four year old son was bending his little Bible into a circle and looking through the center of it as a spyglass, or a telescope. I used to do that with books when I was a boy; but from his action a thought was born in my mind. Let us look at the world through the Bible, let us view the world as God would have us view it. Seeing the world through God's eyes teaches us the idea of...

Loving The World. There is a sense in which we are to love the world, that is, its inhabitants. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."* (John 3:16). We are to love people; we are to love the lost. God loves the lost so much that He is not willing that any should perish, but that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). He desires that all men be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). He has placed the responsibility of bringing the saving Gospel to the world in the hands of Christians, you and me. We are to preach it to *"Every creature"* (Mark 16:15). Viewing the lost as just that – one who is destined for hell, should incentivize us to share the Gospel with them. We should sacrifice our time so we can prepare for then teach the lost.

Loathing The World. To loath is to dislike or hate, to view as an enemy. We love God's beautiful creation, but we hate the sinful pleasures of the world, the wicked ways of the worldly. *"Do not love the world or the things in the world... the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..."* (1 John 2:15-16). It is inconsistent to claim Christ while trying to cater to the world. *"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend to the world makes himself an enemy of God"* (James 4:4). We are not to pattern ourselves after the world: Their lifestyles, their immodest apparel, their wicked entertainment, etc. Be not conformed to the world (Romans 12:1-2).

Leaving The World. If we look at the world through the Bible's eyes, we see a world that is temporary, one that will someday melt away and be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10-13). If we serve the Lord faithfully then when we leave the world we'll be with the Lord forever (Revelation 2:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). We must develop the mindset in which we can truly say, "I wouldn't miss heaven for the world!" 

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www.defendthegospel.com

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!

REPETITIONS

Michael Pickford

There are many repetitive things in our lives: Brush our teeth, get up at a set time, etc. This is one reason why vacations are so nice; they give us a reprieve from the mundane. In the life of a Christian, many things must be repetitive; things from which we should never take a vacation. Consider some with me...

(1) **The Lord's Supper is of a repetitive nature.** In 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Paul reminds Christians of the purpose of the Lord's Supper; and teaches us that it is repetitive in nature by saying, "As often as you eat this bread..." Acts 20:7 informs us how often it is to be observed: Every first day of the week. Some religionists argue that the reason they don't partake every Sunday is because it may become too commonplace and lose its significance. I wonder why they don't make this same argument with regards to giving. True Christians observe the Lord's Supper on the first day of every week.

(2) **Praying should be of a repetitive nature.** "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus taught a parable that men ought to always pray and not lose heart (Luke 18:1). This parable teaches us that prayer should be of a repetitive nature. Don't confuse repetitions with VAIN repetitions. It is not wrong to say the same exact words each time you pray. Some misunderstand Jesus' words in Matthew 6:7, "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do..." Jesus was not condemning all repetitions; He only condemned the vain ones! Jesus Himself used repetitions in prayer. When He was praying in the garden of Gethsemane, He fell on His face and prayed (Matthew 26:39). He prayed again a second time in verse 42. Then verse 44 says, "So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words." He used the same words! We should not repeat and regurgitate phrases that we hear others use in prayer simply because they sound fancy and sweet. Motive is essential; we must pray with understanding and with sincerity.

(3) **Attending Services should be of a repetitive nature.** Hebrews 10:25 commands us to NOT forsake the assembling of ourselves together. Because of the freedoms we enjoy in this nation most churches have set times of worship which remain the same year round. This allows us to always know when we are to meet and plan to be there. Many make God a God of convenience. They'll miss services for other activities which they deem important. It may be something related to school (homework), ball games, trips, vacations, or a number of other things. Listen, there may be some things in this life which are important, but NOTHING is more important than obeying God, and He insists on being put first in every situation. When you miss the assembly for any of the above named reasons you are sliding God onto the back burner, making Him a God of convenience, and saying to him, "God, I'll worship you faithfully WHEN something else doesn't get in the way." Don't play games with God, put Him first in your life, and keep Him there!

(4) **Good works are to be repetitive in the life of a Christian.** We were created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:10). As citizens in the kingdom of God we must be zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).

How are your repetitions? 🙏

SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

Father, Forgive Them

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Robert Johnson
Reading: Luke 23:33-38
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....John Nelson
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Tony Jenkins

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....John Nelson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Invitation.....Ben Green

***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!