


## A PITY PARTY

Michael Pickford

“So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended” (Deuteronomy 34:8). That’s not easy is it? The people mourned for Moses for thirty days, but then the mourning “ended!”

Mourning is acceptable and healthy, but the time comes when it must be put behind us. Some folks get stuck in the mire when it comes to bereavement, even to the point of despair. This often affects their spiritual service to the Lord and their ability to encourage others.

There is a biblical answer for those who get stuck tormenting themselves over the tragedies and losses of their lives. It’s two-fold—Patience and prayer. “He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps” (Psalm 40:2). Do you ever feel like this? Like you are mentally enslaved to the misfortunes of your past? You’re beyond discouraged and hurt, and an honest examination of yourself will reveal that you have become impatient and bitter with others for not joining your endless pity party. They care about you but are at their wit’s end as to what to do. Nothing they have said or done seems to help. What do you do? Pray and wait patiently for the Lord! The Psalmist above did these, and the Lord answered his cry and lifted his spirits. (Psalm 40:1). 

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
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men’s Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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### HEAR HIM!

Michael Pickford

On the mount of transfiguration, in the presence of Jesus, Peter, James, John, Moses, and Elijah, God said about Jesus, “*This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!*” (Matthew 17:5). It is a great tragedy that many today, even many who claim to follow Jesus, refuse to hear and heed Him in various ways. We need to hear Jesus on...

**Marriage.** In Matthew 19:9, Jesus condemned the then prevalent practice of divorcing for just about any cause. He also condemned remarriage for anyone who had been put away. Only those who had put away their spouse for fornication could lawfully remarry. Jesus also condemned homosexual marriages in this context. When the Jews questioned Him about marriage and divorce, Jesus stated, “*Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female.’”* (vs 5). God’s intention was that one man marries one woman and that they remain married for life (vs 6). Those today claiming to be Christians yet advocating for homosexual marriages are failing to hear Jesus. Homosexuality is vile, unnatural, shameful, and an abomination to our Creator (Romans 1:26-27; Lev. 18:22).

**Morality.** Jesus stated, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man...” (Matthew 15:19-20). Today’s modern news is filled with stories about rape, murders, unwanted pregnancies, STD’s etc. A couple living together before marriage has become in many ways the norm (Hebrews 13:4). The murder rate is still high (Galatians 5:21). Internet porn is still on the rise, even among religious people (Gal 5:19 – lewdness, lasciviousness). “Christians” are still entertaining themselves with the sins of the world (Rom 1:32; Psalm 101:3). Foul language is becoming more and more fluent on the TV and in the work place (Colossians 3:8). Oh how we need to stop and listen to Jesus!

**Money.** “*And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses’”* (Luke 12:15). Greed is all around us. Families, children, honesty, and spiritual commitments too often take a back seat to the pursuit of the almighty dollar. Instead of one Nation under God, we have become one Nation under greed. Hear Jesus! (Matt. 6:19-24). 

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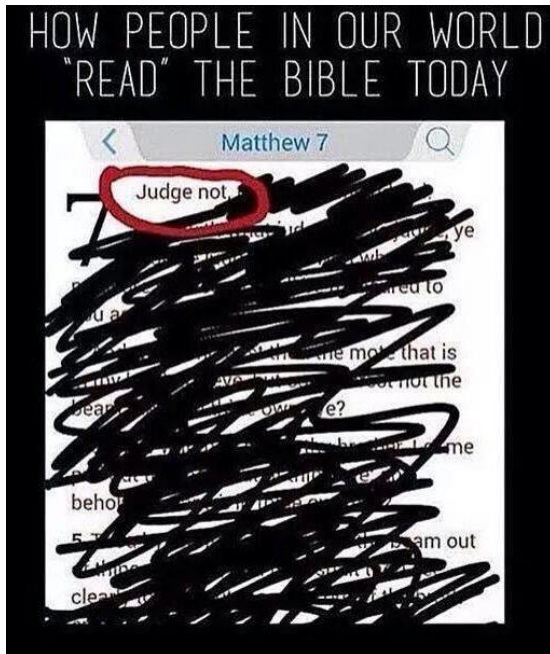
[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

**TO OUR MEMBERS:** You are to be commended for your attendance. Worship services are essential to the Christian life (Heb. 10:25). Thanks for your faithfulness.

**TO OUR VISITORS:** We would like to thank you for your visit and welcome you graciously to our services. People's actions say things and your presence here tells us that you have an interest in spiritual things. If we can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to ask.

If you have never visited with a Church of Christ before, you may have some questions regarding our services. We strive to worship God, not as would please men, but as would please God (Colossians 2:23). God is our Creator and He has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. It is therefore our desire to let the Bible be our only guide as to how the church worships Him. We are determined to do only those things the Lord has authorized in His gospel (Colossians 3:17) lest we be banished from God's fellowship (2 John 9). **The elements of our worship 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
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The context of Matthew 7:1-6 will show that Jesus is not condemning all judging; He is condemning hypocritical judging. It's like the drunkard condemning the drunkard for being a drunkard. Jesus actually commanded us to judge in verse 5 when He told us to remove the speck from our brother's eye (after removing the plank from our own eye). We are not to judge hypocritically, but we have been commanded by Jesus to "Judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). -MP

## SERMON NOTES

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

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

### Profiting From Eternal Punishment

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Frank Anderson  
Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
- 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.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table.....John Nelson

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

**Thank You For Serving!**

#### 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; 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!**