

## FAITHFUL FANS

Michael Pickford

I suppose there's a little bit of sports fan in all of us. Over the years, I have known a great deal who are truly devoted to their team.

Sports fans don't mind representing their team, even if they stand alone. A sports fan will wear hats, shirts, and jackets to let the world know who their team is. But are Christians as devoted about letting the world know who their Lord is (1 Peter 3:15)?

Sports fans are tireless. They'll make long road trips to see their team play. They'll spend long hours at the TV routing their team on. Are Christians this devoted? Will we make a tireless effort to attend all the services and

Bible classes? Will we spend long hours at the table studying God's word alone and with our families, routing out God's truths (Hebrews 10:25; Acts 17:11)?

Sports fans are willing to spend money. They'll pay big bucks for a shirt that would cost a third of the price minus the team logo. They'll buy the sports channel packages; they'll purchase hotel rooms, gas, tickets, sometimes airfare in order to see their team live in action. Are Christians this willing to be so generous in giving to the church and to those in need (1 Corinthians 16:1-3)? Can we, as Christians, learn from faithful fans? 🔍

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

- [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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## EXPECTING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Michael Pickford

*"For with God nothing will be impossible"* (Luke 1:37). This was part of the message given to Mary by the angel when revealing the upcoming birth of Christ. From man's standpoint, it was impossible for her, a virgin, to be with child. We would do well to be reminded that we serve a powerful God. But it is interesting how we sometimes expect things to happen under circumstances that make these things impossible. For example, some expect...

### Salvation Without Conformity.

God has made salvation available through Christ Jesus via His death on the cross, but He has also made it clear that we cannot obtain this salvation without conforming to the Gospel of Christ. Jesus became the Author of salvation to all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9). The man-made Gospel of salvation by "Grace only" will not do. Grace was God's part in the scheme of redemption, but man's part is to obey, to do the Father's will (Matthew 7:21). So we are saved by grace (God's part) through faith (Man's part). That is, an obedient faith, not just a mental assent to the Lordship of Christ. The purpose of the preaching of the Gospel is ultimately

for *"Obedience to the faith"* (Romans 16:26). The Lord said, *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved"* (Mark 16:16). Those who do not conform to this demand of the Gospel cannot expect salvation. That's impossible! In addition, some expect...

### Satisfaction Without Cooperation.

Many are not satisfied with the state of the church. They expect the impossible! They expect to get joy and encouragement from the services without putting something in themselves (Heb. 10:24-25). They expect the attendance to rise without inviting others to services. They expect more baptisms without trying to teach others. They expect to grow in knowledge without reading the Bible daily and attending the bible classes offered by the church. Impossible! (see Ephesians 4:11-16). Some expect...

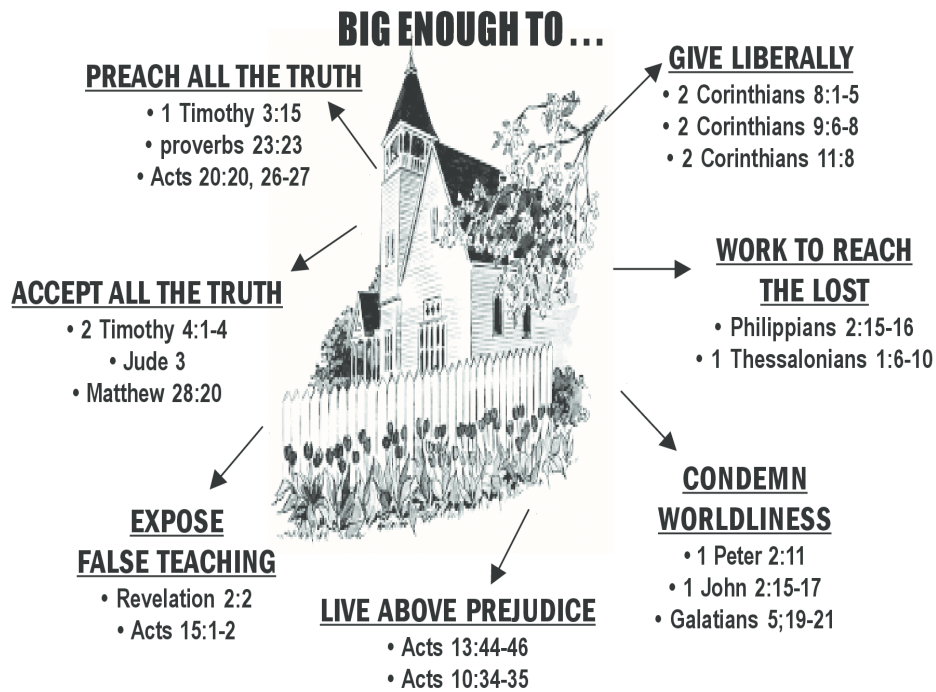
### Steadfastness Without Conviction.

One wonders why he can't resist temptations more successfully. We are to be faithful till death (Revelation 2:10), and steadfast (1 Corinthians 15:58). This can't be done until we are wholly committed to the cause of Christ. We must search our hearts and make sure we have truly put God first above all else (Matthew 6:33). 🔍

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# Churches Ought To Be Big!



**EVERY CONGREGATION OF THE CHURCH SHOULD BE FAITHFUL!**

*Barnes' Bible Charts*

"Happy is the man who is always reverent."

-Proverbs 28:14

## SERMON NOTES

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

**STUDY DAILY!**  
Acts 17:11

**Peace:**

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

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

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

**DUTY LIST...**

**SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Ben Reagh  
Reading: Luke 2:8-14
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

**SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Ben Reagh

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

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

**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!***

**Thank You For Serving!**

***Home Bible Studies Available Upon Request!***