


## GLORY SEEKERS

Michael Pickford

We've all known people who are glory hogs. They're not happy unless the spotlight is on them, praising them for who they are, or what they have accomplished. They thrive on it. Some people walk into a room thinking, "There you are." Others enter thinking "Here I am."

"It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory" (Proverbs 25:27, ESV). Glory seekers are naturally braggarts. They're seeking their own glory. If they don't receive praise from others they'll certainly give it to themselves. "Look at what I did," "Look at my accomplishments." These are the types

of statements that flood from their lips. "Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips" (Proverbs 27:2). Perhaps they suffer from low self esteem as the psychologists suggest, but this doesn't justify the behavior. Sadly, these rarely receive praise from others, which is what they're really after.

There are those who constantly seek the praise of others. Everything they do is done to win the praise of others. It's nice to hear others' compliments, but if receiving them is our motive in doing good, we are like the Pharisees who fell under the Lord's condemnation (Matthew 6:1-18; 23:5). 

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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## HOW'S YOUR HEART?


Michael Pickford

Heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death in America. It is very important to protect the condition of your heart. This can be challenging, but worth the effort. More importantly, spiritual heart disease results in eternal condemnation. The heart is used metaphorically many times in the Bible. Let's learn some lessons...

**A Corrupt Heart.** Jesus placed His blessing upon the one with a "Pure Heart" (Matthew 5:8). This is a sincere heart that loves God. It's a heart that's free from corrupt thoughts of lust, strife, slander, hatred, covetousness, deceit, pride, etc. (Mark 7:21-23). If we're not very protective of our spiritual heart, it can easily be corrupted by the wicked society in which we live. We must be careful about the influences that surround us, lest we find ourselves living and acting like the world (Romans 12:1-2). The way we entertain ourselves, the places we go, the things we say, the way we act and react in certain situations, these are all different than the world.

**A Calloused Heart.** Hardening of the arteries is associated with heart disease. We must be careful of our spiritual hearts, lest they become

hardened. It's easy to become desensitized to the evil that surrounds us. We no longer cringe when we read that horrific news story about rape, murder, or abortion. We must also keep our hearts tender for the truth of God's word, lest we be deceived. The Bible speaks of those who are "Past feeling." (Ephesians 4:19). Some have had their consciences seared by error. We need to keep ourselves simple (Innocent) concerning evil (Romans 16:19).

**A Concealed Heart.** Many have become very adroit at keeping evil secrets. They conceal, or hide their sin in their hearts. We may succeed at keeping our secrets from the preacher, the elders, the church, our friends and family, even our spouse; but God knows the deepest corners of our hearts. He can see it all. It's lain out bare before His all seeing eyes (Hebrews 4:12-13). On the last day He will judge the secrets of man through Christ (Romans 2:16). "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13). "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). 

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## REFUSING TO DO EVIL

Michael Pickford

Serving God is not just about choosing to do the right things, and to be busy with good works that serve and help others and glorify God. Certainly we must be "Zealous for good works," as we were "Created in Christ Jesus for them" (Titus 2:14; Ephesians 2:10). We sometimes think we can continue to do bad things and then "Make it right" by doing a good thing; balance the books. But faithfully serving the Lord isn't just about doing good things; it's very much about refusing to do evil things.

We are often faced with the opportunity to do something wicked and sinful. When "Sin comes a knocking," how do we respond? There are some who "Refuse to do justice" (Proverbs 21:7). We must refuse to do evil.

**Joseph Refused To Do Evil.** What an example we have in Joseph! For a good while it seemed every time he turned around he was being done wrong. One time was in Egypt. His master loved him, but his master's wife lusted after him. She repeatedly tempted him to commit adultery with her, and he flat out refused her repeatedly. I love his words, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God" (Genesis 39:9). We should have these words seared in our hearts when tempted to do what's wrong.

**Job refused to speak evil against God.** Job was certainly in a position to give in and commit evil with his lips and curse God. Even his wife told him, "Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9). But he refused to do so! He reminded her that God had given them a great deal of good things in life, and should they turn their back on Him when bad things happened? Job refused to "Sin with his lips" (Job 2:10). How often have we been tempted to accuse God for the bad things that happen in life? Don't do it! Follow Job's example.

Yes we must abound in good works (1 Corinthians 15:58). But in doing this, let's also have the courage to refuse to do evil, to "Abhor what is evil" (Romans 12:9).. Let's pray for the strength to "Fear the Lord and depart from evil" (Proverbs 3:7).

"Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed."

Proverbs 27:5

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### Complimenting One Another

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Frank Anderson  
Reading: Matthew 15:21-28
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Kenny Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

**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!*