

TIME FLIES

Michael Pickford

On several occasions I have heard someone use the phrase, "Time flies." This statement is meant to give the connotation that time seems to be passing by rather rapidly. Although each day of the year contains the same amount of time, it does sometimes seem that "Time flies."

There is a great need for time management in the life of a Christian. As we budget out our days and our lives, we need to give special attention to spiritual things. There should be in each day a time for prayer, Bible study, doing good, helping someone else make it to heaven, etc..

We live in a wicked world and a

wicked society and there is always the need for us to spread our salt (Matthew 5:13-16). It's sometimes very easy to waste a good deal of our time. If we've put in a hard day's work on our jobs, we sometimes feel justified if we just sit around and waste the entire evening watching television. However, the time is limited and there is much work to do in the Lord's kingdom.

Don't let time fly away. Seize every opportunity you have to do spiritual work. Create opportunities to do good. This is what the apostle Paul taught in Ephesians 5:16 when he wrote, "Redeeming the time, for the days are evil."

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
- 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

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

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

Volume 11, Number 07

February 15, 2015

GOD IS NEAR

Michael Pickford

"We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare that your name is near" (Psalm 75:1). Thankfulness is a recurring theme throughout the Bible. God wants His people to be a thankful people. Instead of being thankful to Him for His presence and wondrous works, the Israelites often turned to complaining and dissatisfaction. This verse displays why we should be thankful to God always – "For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near."

God Is Near Through His Creation. The creation around us is wondrous, certainly the wondrous work of an Almighty God. How can we look up at the stars and not see His name written in the heavens (Psalm 8)? How can we not feel the reality of His existence when we gaze at a snow capped mountain, or look across the mighty waters of the sea, or feel the cool breeze in our face on a hot summer day? His hand is in everything around us. He is always near! His creation speaks to us of His existence and closeness; for "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge" (Psalm 19:1-2).

God Is Near Through His Care. Whether they like it not, even the wicked enjoy the creation and blessings of God. If they have rain, sun, food, or clothing, it is because God willed it for them. They would not even draw another breath outside the will of the Almighty. "For He makes His son rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). Sadder still is when we Christians feel discontented in life. Have we forgotten how near God is, even during the lean times, we should find comfort in His perpetual nearness?

God Is Near Through His Christ. "Christ" comes from a Greek word which means, "Anointed One." The Hebrew word meaning the same thing is "Messiah." The most wondrous of God's works is His indescribable gift of Christ on the cross. God has shown that He is near all mankind, willing and waiting for them to acknowledge His presence through obedience to the Lord, so that He might save them (2 Corinthians 9:15; Hebrews 5:8-9; 2 Peter 3:9). If you're outside of Christ, draw near to God through Him today (Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16). Grope for Him and find Him, for He is not far from each one of us (Acts 17:27). God is near!🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

LOVE YOUR SPOUSE!

Michael Pickford

Most people are familiar with the words of the apostle Paul from Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives.” Someone told me years ago that while the Bible commands the husband to love his wife, it never says anything about the wife loving her husband. They overlooked Titus 2:4, where the older women were to, among other things, “Admonish the young women to love their husbands” (Titus 2:4). We must love our spouses!

A Commanded Love. The thought may seem strange to some, but it is actually a command that we love our spouse. Paul commanded the men, “Love your wives.” Love isn’t just a mushy emotion, as some seem to think. It is that great divine love, agape Love! This type of love by definition is an active love; active good will towards others. Years ago, while speaking to a young man who was divorcing his wife, he told me, “I just don’t love her anymore.” I encouraged him to understand the command aspect of love. He had never considered that.

A Committed Love. Marital love is also a committed love. We are to be devoted to our spouse. The Husband is told to love his wife even as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). That’s a sacrificial love; for Christ shed His precious blood to purchase the church (Acts 20:28). My commitment for my wife should be so strong that I would gladly give my life for her. A woman once told a counselor, “I really think he would die for me, I just wish he would live for me.” If we’re not careful, our spouse can simply become a roommate. Merely someone we share a house with. We must be committed to our spouse. Love them. Plan and do things with them. Be interested in their concerns, their desires, their wants and needs (Emotional, physical, and spiritual).

A Consenting Love. Wives are commanded to submit to their husbands. Not with an, “Ok, fine, you’re the boss, whatever you say” attitude; but submission with respect (Ephesians 5:22). “Let each of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband” (Ephesians 5:33). This consent and submission must also be present in the romantic, sexual aspect of the marriage. Paul deals with this in 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. “Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband” (vs. 3). “Do not deprive one another...” (vs. 5). The sexual aspect of marriage isn’t a tool to be used for manipulation or punishment. It is an honorable privilege granted only to a man and woman who are married to one another, and they should be happy to consent to it (Hebrews 13:4).

May we all work harder at loving the spouse God has blessed us with, with the kind of love he has commanded. The result will be happiness, contentment, and peace within the home. 🔍

For Daily Bible Exhortation, visit my blog at WWW.SUSTAININGWORDS.COM

SERMON NOTES

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

Set For A Defense of the Gospel

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Frank Anderson
Reading: Philippians 1:12-18
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Green
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Ben Reagh
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

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!*