

BOTH SIDES OF THE STORY

Michael Pickford

Sometimes someone will come to us with certain accusations against someone. What do we do with it? Do we just go ahead and believe it because of the character, reputation, position, or passion of the one making the charges? Certainly not! To do so would be unfair and unjust to the accused. It is imperative that we strive to hear the other side of the story from the accused before making any decisions on the matter....

“The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.”

-Proverbs 18:17

Without the accused being present, it's easy for the accuser to get the upper hand, and seem convincing. We must not fall prey to this. Good people have been slandered and brought down because someone had an agenda against them. Paul insisted that we avoid prejudice (Pre-judging) in these matters. It is important to establish facts before believing something about someone. 🔍

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 29

August 02, 2015

HOLD FAST

Michael Pickford

Have you ever heard or used the phrase, “Holding on for dear life?” In this article it is eternal life that is under consideration. And in order to finally receive our reward, we must certainly hold fast! The phrase “Hold fast” occurs several times both in the Old and the New testaments. Let's learn some lessons...

Hold Fast To Our Holiness. Job declared long ago, “*My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live*” (Job 27:6). He spoke this in the midst of severe personal suffering. We are sometimes tempted to do evil during hard times; to abandon our righteousness. But we must hold fast. Paul wrote, “*Hold fast what is good*” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Satan would have us to give in, to give up, and to throw in the towel. He wants to convince us that it's just too hard, too difficult, too challenging to live holy lives in an unholy world. Don't give in, hold fast! Our reward will certainly be worth it.

Hold Fast To Our Hope. “*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful*” (Hebrews 10:23). Actually, there are several passages exhorting us to “Hold” fast to our confidence, our faith, our faithfulness, etc. No wonder! Considering the onslaught of temptations we face each day to lay aside our faithfulness, to sin, and to jeopardize our eternal reward. In order to make it through seemingly impossible situations, Paul kept his mind focused on the invisible, the reward. He constantly contemplated “What it's all for.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

Hold Fast To Healthy Doctrine. Paul told Timothy, “*Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me...*” (2 Timothy 1:13). False doctrine and religious error abound in our society. This has always been the case ever since the devil made his appearance on the scene, and it always will be the case. Brethren are often deceived by error, so it is imperative that we resolve to hold fast, to cling tightly to the truth of the Gospel, lest we be led astray. Peter said that saints must continually grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus, “*Lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked*” (2 Peter 3:17, see also verse 18). 🔍

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

www.defendthegospel.com

ANGER

Ron Adams

Anger: a strong feeling of displeasure or hostility.

“Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell. Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

Genesis 4:4-7

Cain was warned to “master” his anger. It was his decision: master it or be mastered by it.

ANGER

It is not a sin to be angry! Anger is an emotion that can be aroused in us. It’s not a matter of “if it can happen.” There are numerous places in the Bible where the words “the anger of God” are found. Jesus became angry (Mark 3:5: *After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.*)

CONTROLLING ANGER

Anger, unless controlled, is a springboard to sin. We must control our anger. If not, it will control us. The words spoken to Cain “sin is crouching at the door” makes it very clear that unless one’s anger is controlled, sin will follow.

Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.

Proverbs 25:28

He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered exalts folly.

Proverbs 14:29

He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

Proverbs 16:32

ADMONITIONS

BE SLOW TO ANGER

“But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.”

James 1:19

KEEP IT IN CHECK

Avoid “outbursts of anger”

Galatians 5:20

DON’T LET IT FESTER

Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

Ephesians 4:26-27

REMOVE IT!

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Ephesians 4:31

WARNING Control your anger or your anger will control you.-

SERMON NOTES

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

Title: _____

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

**STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11**

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Tony Jenkins
Reading: John 14:1-6
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....Ben Reagh
 - Serve.....John Nelson
 - Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord’s Table.....Ben Reagh

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

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!**