

OFF THE CLOCK

Michael Pickford

While working in restaurant management I would sometimes see a worker behind the counter in uniform when I knew they were not there within their scheduled hours. I would ask them if they were off the clock. It's nice to be off the clock. There are no responsibilities to work. No one expects anything from you. Christians sometimes act as if they are off the clock. It's almost as if we clock in and out of Christianity. When we're around certain people, we clock in. When we're around other people (friends in the world) we clock out. This often means that we lay aside those principles that are to guide our lives at all times as God's children. Some get involved in gossip, lewdness, drinking, smoking, cussing, and a host of other worldly things. The Bible calls this hypocrisy (Matthew 7:1-18; Romans 2:3), and it significantly harms our influence in the world.

"For 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you'" -Romans 2:24

We "Clock in" to Christ by obeying the Gospel through baptism (Galatians 3:26-27). We must remain "clocked in" if we hope to receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). 🔍

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
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE!

Michael Pickford

In Luke 17:32, Jesus is speaking of coming sudden destruction. Whoever took the time to look back, that is, to try and gather their possessions before they fled, would not escape the destruction. So Jesus reminds them of Lot's wife in order to teach them to not look back. We learn some valuable lessons about God from Lot's wife (Genesis 19:12-29). When we remember Lot's wife, we remember that God is.....

Strict. Today's society seeks to redefine the character of God, disposing all the firmness, and highlighting only the love. They throw in a heavy dose of tolerance. If they would read their Bibles, they would learn that there created God has no resemblance to the living God of scripture. The true God destroyed the earth with a flood when man's sin ran amuck. He struck Aaron's sons dead for unauthorized worship. He killed Uzzah for touching the Ark. Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for lying to the apostles and the holy Spirit, and Herod was struck down for pride (Gen. 7; Lev 10:1-2; 2 Sam. 6:1-8; Acts 5:1-11; Acts 12:20-24).

Severe. The first point highlights the severity of God as well. But let's remember that God turned Lot's wife into a pillar of salt (she died) for taking a look over her shoulder (Gen 19:26). Folks today want to only accentuate the love of God. But the Bible urges us to consider "The goodness and severity of God" (Romans 11:22). Judgment day will especially highlight His severity when those who did not obey the gospel will begin their everlasting punishment in flaming fire (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

Straightforward When we start remembering how Strict God is, and how severe God is, there might be the temptation to think that God must be mean and cruel and unjust. But again, the story of Lot's wife reminds us that this just simply is not true. In Genesis 19:16-17, we notice that God warned Lot and his family. He said, "Don't look back." He was very straightforward about it. If people end up in eternal punishment; if people who are otherwise good, moral, sincere, and kind people end up in eternal punishment, it will not be because God wasn't straightforward with them. It will not be because God didn't warn them (2 Thess 1:7-9; Matt 25:46). In the garden of Eden, God was straightforward with Adam and Eve (Gen 2:16-17). They ate the fruit, and they died, just as God said. Don't let Satan deceive you about the warning of God. 🔍

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www.defendthegospel.com

ANSWERING BIBLE QUESTIONS

Michael Pickford

Question: "Where did Cain get his wife?"

At the Scopes trial in Tennessee in 1925, ACLU lawyer Clarence Darrow asked the religious William Jennings Bryan the question about Cain's wife. Bryan couldn't give an answer. How tragic! Beloved, learn how to answer this and other questions posed by those who despise the wonderful word of God.

To get a clear understanding of the proper answer to the question, we should first understand what is NOT the answer to the question. For example, some contend that God had created another group of people in the same manner as He created Adam; but in Genesis 2:19-25 we learn that God brought forth to Adam every animal created. "But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him" (Vs. 20b). God then created Eve from a rib from Adam's side. Why would God do this? If there was another group of people, why could Adam not find a partner suitable for him from them? Furthermore, "Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living" (Gen. 3:20). This very fact refutes the possibility of another created group of people. Eve was the mother of ALL living! Also, Paul made it clear that God made every nation of men from ONE blood (Acts 17:26). There was no other group of people. All people living today came from Adam and Eve!

So, where DID Cain get his wife? Simple, he either married his sister or another close relative. The Bible doesn't tell us how old Cain and Abel were when Cain killed Abel. The statement "in the process of time" (Gen. 4:3) seems to indicate a considerable amount of time. Add to this the facts that Adam and Eve were commanded to be fruitful and multiply, and Adam lived to be 930 years old! During this time, he had sons AND daughters (Gen. 5:4,5). Since there could not have been another group of people created by God, and since Adam and Eve did have daughters, it is very practical to conclude that Cain married his sister or another close relative.

But, doesn't the Bible condemn incest? Yes it does, but not during the time of Adam and Eve. Remember, Abraham was married to his half-sister (Gen. 20:12), and God blessed that union by giving them a child who would produce a nation chosen to be God's own special people. It was 400 years after Abraham before God first condemned incest (Lev. 18-20). But what about deformities? Laws of our land prohibit intermarriages between those too closely related because of the possibility of their children being deformed. These deformities are the result of mistakes in the gene pool. However, these mistakes take time to develop. When God created Adam and Eve, their genes were perfect. God created no mistakes. Obviously, because of the curse brought on by sin, genes began to digress. However, it would take many generations before the threat of deformities would develop from close relations intermarrying. Evidently, this had occurred by the time of Moses, hence the prohibition. But Adam and Eve's direct children would not have horribly erroneous genes; therefore, they could intermarry for several generations without the threat of deformed children.

It is not only reasonable, but it is biblical to conclude that Cain married a close relative. 🔍

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...Eli Todd
Reading: Revelation 1:12-18
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Ben Reagh
- Closing Prayer.....

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- 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!*