



**"I would rather have thousands say to me at judgment, "We heard you preach, and you hurt our feelings," than to have just one lost soul say, ""I heard you preach, but you did not tell me the truth."" -- John T. Lewis**

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:**

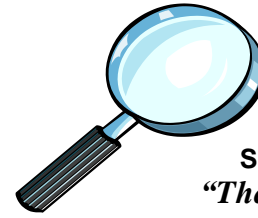
- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



## **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
- 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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## **JESUS PRAYED FOR UNITY**

Larry R. Ping II

There are some humbling accounts in the Bible. One of the most humbling, though, is the Lord's Prayer. And no, you will not find it in **Matthew 6**. Rather, you must turn to **John 17** in order to locate it. It is a beautiful prayer for unity. But the most humbling part? Jesus prayed for me, and he prayed for you. Here is a portion of that wonderful plea to the Father.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me" (*John 17:20-23*).

Have you ever wondered what the "big deal" is about unity? Have you ever wondered why such importance is placed upon it? Jesus' prayer answers that question — so the world will "believe that" God sent His Son **AND** so that His people can be "perfect," or complete.

God's people **MUST** be one — we have no choice.

Unity is an exquisite thing. David wrote "*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity*" (**Psalm 133:1**)!

Yet, unity is not always an easy thing to attain. Paul penned (to a group struggling to be unified) "*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*" (**I Corinthians 1:10**).

On this day, do your part to help God's people be one. Strike down any thoughts or feelings which would bring division. As beautiful as unity is...is as ugly division is — this we must believe. Jesus prayed that we would be one — let's do our part!

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# MOMENTS THAT TEST US

Michael Thomas

Persecution reveals the quality of our faith in the same way fire reveals the nature of metal (1 Pet. 1:7). But persecution is not the only moment that reveals our character. There are other scenes in life that are just as effective in exposing our inner man:

**Being Alone.** The Bible says it is possible for us to do things in private that are shameful even to mention. “*For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret*” (Eph. 5:12). This principle applies to any moment we think we can sin without getting caught. It is in times like these we need to remember that “*there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account*” (Heb. 4:12). If we would be ashamed for others to see what we watch on television, the sites we visit online, how we treat our family when at home, what we wear when on vacation, or how we forsake the assembly when out of town, we should be even more concerned about doing these things before our all-seeing Creator and Judge. There is no secret place from Him.

**Criticism.** Floyd Thompson had some good thoughts on this subject: “When someone begins to criticize you, though the criticism may be just or unjust, how do you react? Do you get mad and say, ‘Well, if that’s the way they feel about it, I’ll just quit. If that’s their attitude, I’ll quit.’... What is your reaction when someone calls you a liar? Usually the first reaction is, ‘I’ll knock his head off!’ Or, if not that, ‘I’ll defame his character,’ or ‘I’ll get even.’... The very first thing that should enter your mind ought to be this: Am I? You see, there is the possibility that you did lie. That’s the first question that ought to come into your mind... if he did not tell the truth, his calling you a liar did not make you one. So why get disturbed about it?” (*Book, Chapter and Verse*, pp 173-174).

A wise person will at least examine himself to see if what he is accused of is true. “*Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning*” (Pro. 9:8-9). If the criticism is just, accept it. If it is false, move on. We’re all going to be forgotten in time anyway (Eccl. 9:5-6), so why lose our soul over human opinion?

**Difficulty In God’s Word.** There will come a time when we have difficulty obeying all of God’s will. It is inevitable in our growth and knowledge of His word. Paul had to tell the Corinthians to carry out the unpleasant task of withdrawing fellowship from an ungodly member (1 Cor. 5:4, 11-13). He later said, after they did as God instructed, “*For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things*” (1 Cor. 2:9). It’s easy to obey God in things we want to do, but will we obey Him in the difficult things as well, as in keeping the local church free of members who won’t repent of sin? Very few will, which is why Jesus said some Christians are like stony soil that rejects the seed—“*when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble*” (Mark 4:17). What will these moments reveal about you? -

*"Giving thanks always for all things"*

Ephesians 5:20

# SERMON NOTES

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

## DUTY LIST...

### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford  
Reading: Acts 17:24-31
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....Kenny Todd
  - Serve.....Michael Pickford
  - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Johnson

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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