



# ***SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER***

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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## **MEN PLEASERS**

**Michael Pickford**

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)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.

The Bible has some things to say about those who live their lives trying to please men. We're talking here about doing whatever it takes to please others so that they will like us. But we need to be warned that....

**Men Pleasers Deny Christ.** John spoke of some who believed in Jesus, but they would not confess Him because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God (John 13:42-43). Their belief was not a saving belief because they did not act on it. They did not act on it because they wanted to please others around them. We find ourselves in a similar situation when we're around our friends and co-workers in the world. Do we freely let others know we are Christians? Or are we afraid of being made fun of? Do we snicker at the dirty jokes they tell, or join in with them in their foul language? Don't forget, you are to be the salt and light of the world (Matt. 6:13-16).

**Men Pleasers Distort The Truth.** While speaking of the condemnation of those who add to the Gospel, Paul reminded his readers that he was not in it to please men, and that if he were, he could not please Christ (Galatians 1:5-10). Many years ago, a book titled "How To Win Friends and Influence People" became very popular. We have those in religion today who seek above all else to be liked by their fellow man. So we have religious teachers who distort the Gospel in order to gain man's approval. There are many difficult and offensive truths in the Gospel, and we must not shy away from them in order to be liked by everyone!

**Men Pleasers Deceive Others.** I'm speaking here about hypocrisy - Those who try to make themselves out to be better than they really are. Jesus said about the hypocrites of His day, "But all their works they do to be seen by men" (Matthew 23:5). Ananias and Sapphira became guilty of this. In their desire to make others think they were more generous than they really were, they lied to the Holy Spirit and it cost them their lives and their souls (Acts 5:1-11). We should treat our fellow man with love and kind deeds. We should be thankful if we are liked by many, but if that is our number one goal in life, to be pleasing to others, then we need to change our goal. Our first priority is to please the Lord, not man. Let us strive to do His will first, even if it offends others. Remember, the first great commandment is to love God, loving our neighbor comes second (Matthew 22:37-39). 🔍

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# UNGODLY EUPHEMISMS

Mike Thomas

A euphemism is a phrase that serves as a “mild substitution” for another phrase or term that might be too direct, harsh, or offensive. When we don’t want to be too morbid in referring to death, we sometimes say the person “kicked the bucket.” If we’re trying to be modest in referring to a woman’s pregnancy, we say she is “expecting.” These are examples of euphemisms. And while many are harmless and part of everyday conversation, others are synonyms for vulgarity or taking God’s name in vain that we should carefully consider before saying.

Dictionary.com gives these definitions for the following terms:

**Gosh:** “a euphemistic alteration for God.” **Golly:** “a euphemism for God.”

**Gee:** “a euphemism for Jesus.” **Heck:** “euphemistic for hell.”

**Darn:** “a euphemistic word for damn.”

Some might feel good about saying “Oh my Gosh” instead of “Oh my God,” but by definition there is no difference in the two. One is just another way of saying the same thing. I doubt very few people knowingly say Gosh, Gee, or Darn with the intent to misspeak. This may convince some that no harm is done in using any word, euphemism or otherwise, if the intent is harmless. Some might even say it’s nobody’s business how we speak or that “Dictionary.com doesn’t define my speech,” but is that how righteousness is determined? Does intent alone settle this matter? God says, “*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth*” (Eph. 4:29). How are we to determine which words are corrupt if not by the definitions and usages of terms in a given language? How else can we apply this principle if not by definitions?

The last thing we want to do is shrug our shoulders and say it doesn’t matter to God what we say or how we say it. Jesus warned, “*For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned*” (Matt. 12:37). Think about that statement. We will be judged by our words. That’s serious! And when we consider how God specifically taught people to refer to His name with dignity, we should be especially concerned about even coming close to defiling it. He told the Jews, “*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain*” (Exo. 20:7). Those who disregarded this rule were to be punished (Lev. 24:11-16). We may not be under the Law of Moses, but we are still not to blaspheme God’s name (1 Tim. 1:20). A new covenant did not change His position as “*the High and Lofty One...whose name is Holy*” (Isa. 57:15).

I know it’s not easy to control the tongue when angry or to eliminate a habit of saying certain terms. We certainly need God’s help and mercy to make this change, as well as patience with ourselves and others in this growth process. Nevertheless, control our tongue we must because everyone “*will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken*” (Matt. 12:36, NIV). If profanity and taking the Lord’s name in vain are wrong, then certainly using their euphemisms would be nothing except...“careless.” -

# Each One Teach One

## 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...Sam Miller  
Reading: Genesis 39:1-6
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....Tony Jenkins
  - Serve.....Michael Pickford
  - Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table.....Lynn Buttrey

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- 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!***