

# Steps To Salvation

- **Hear:** Romans 10:17
- **Believe:** Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- **Repent:** Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
- **Confess Faith:** Romans 10:9,10;  
Acts 8:37
- **Be Baptized:** Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38;  
Acts 22:16
- **Remain Faithful:** Revelation 2:10  
\*Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9

Have You Obeyed?  
2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Why Not Now?!

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.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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### IS EASTER FROM GOD?

Michael Pickford

On this day many "churches" will be celebrating Easter as a church. They will host feasts, pageants, plays, Easter egg hunts, etc, all paid for from their treasuries. Is this what God wants? ...

**A MANGLED TRANSLATION.** Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, etc have all come to us by way of man-made traditions (Consider Matthew 15:8-9). Jesus did indeed die on the cross for the sins of man, and He arose from the dead, but we have no record of the early church celebrating an "Easter" holiday. Churches who do so depart from scripture when they practice things not authorized in the Bible, and this is condemned (Colossians 3:17; 2 John 9). The KJV translates the Greek pascha as "Easter" in Acts 12:4, but the word means "Passover," and is translated as such in all other places in the New Testament. The Jewish Passover is what is under consideration in the context, not a Christian religion. Herod was trying to please the Jews by waiting until after "Easter" (Passover), but he would have angered the Jews by observing a Christian religion.

**A MAN-MADE TRADITION.** It is sad when men are deceived by their feelings of safety and security in well established, time-worn human traditions. It is tragic when churches that celebrate Easter think they are pleasing God in doing so. Paul thought he was pleasing God while persecuting the Lord's church (Acts 26:9-11). Many Jews thought they were pleasing God by serving Him according to their own traditional whims (Romans 10:1-3). Many, expecting to go to heaven for their great spiritual works, will be rejected by the Lord (Matthew 7:21-23). Something may be "spiritual" in nature, produce good results, and be a big part of the "Religious community;" but if God did not authorize it, it is "Lawlessness" (Matthew 7:23).

**A MANDATED TRADITION .** God commanded that the church observe the Lord's supper every first day of the week in order to proclaim Christ's death till He comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7). This is a tradition handed down from God (2 Thessalonians 3:6). But this simple observance with its basic emblems cannot compete with the fun and excitement of pageants, parades, parties, egg hunts and plays hosted by most of the "Churches" of our day. Folks' minds are blinded by the light of these shiny treats and their hearts are distracted from the true spiritual significance of our Lord's great sacrifice of love at Calvary. 🔍

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# WHO HAS SEEN THE WIND?

Michael Pickford

“Who Has Seen The Wind?” is a simple children’s poem written by 19<sup>th</sup> Century Poet Christina Rossetti. In its simplicity, it states the profound truth that though some things can’t be seen with the human eye, their effects can be. This is true of the wind; though we do not see it, we can feel it against our faces. We can also see the leaves rustle, and the trees bend low. God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit dwell within the Christian; not literally and personally, but as we allow God to influence our lives. People can see the Spirit in me, not with the physical eye, but they can observe the effects of the influence the Spirit wields in my life through the Gospel He has revealed. The Spirit can be seen in us...

**Through Our Attitude.** *“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice”* (Philippians 4:4). A sour, depressing, complaining attitude towards life will push people away from you. If we possess a joyful attitude, folks can see that we are Christians. After being baptized, the Eunuch went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39).

**Through Our Generosity.** *“...I will show you my faith by my works”* (James 2:18). People can see the faith within us as we go about doing good, and serving the Lord faithfully. We must be *“Zealous for good works,”* maintaining them in our lives, striving to meet the needs of others (Titus 2:14; 3:14).

**Through Our Love.** *“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:35). When the world sees Christians doing loving things for each other, and acting in loving ways towards each other, they can see the influence of the Lord in our lives. Bitterness and anger towards our fellow Christians will send a much different message to the world around us.

**Through Our Ability To Get Along.** If we do all things without complaining and disputing, we will shine as bright lights in the world (Philippians 2:14-16). Members of local churches who are always bickering and complaining with and against each other will turn people off of the church rather than attract people to the Lord. We must be diligent about disputing error and contending for the faith, but when it comes to opinions, we must be willing to bear with one another in a loving and peaceable manner (Acts 15:1-3; Jude 1:3; Colossians 3:12-13).

**Through Our Abstinence.** *“In regards to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you”* (1 Peter 4:4).

We do not participate in our friends and neighbors wickedness, whether it be drinking parties, ungodly entertainment, etc. They think we’re strange for it, but at least they can see the righteous influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives through it.

**Through Our Work In The Work Force.** Being lazy, difficult workers in the work force can blaspheme God’s name among those in the world, while being devoted, diligent, honest workers can adorn the doctrine of God (1 Tim. 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10).

**Through Our Speech.** *“In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you”* (Titus 2:7-8). If we snicker at or tell a dirty joke, we show the world that our hearts aren’t really guided by the purity of the Gospel, and we give them an opportunity to brand us as hypocrites. One slip of the tongue can destroy our influence for the Lord. Let’s guard our mouths with diligence. ☞

## 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...Glenn Isbell  
Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....Kenny Todd
  - Serve.....John Nelson
  - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

#### **SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

#### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

**Thank You For Serving!**

### **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!***

***Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!***