

ENCOURAGEMENT & WARNING

David Eldridge

Today's Reading: 1 Samuel 9-12

After the people made Saul king, Samuel speaks to the people of Israel. He reminds them of the times that Israel had rebelled in the past, their resulting oppression at the hands of the nations left in the land, and the deliverers which the Lord had sent.

Samuel used these events of the past as a warning to the people of their need to remain faithful to the Lord.

Today, I would encourage you to meditate on the words with which Samuel concluded his address: "Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king" (1 Sam. 12:24-25). -

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
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- 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 12, Number 28

July 17, 2016

FAITH/BELIEF 2

Michael Pickford

Last week we pointed out several essential facts about Bible faith. Let's consider a few more. ...

Faith Can Be Vain. The word "Vain" indicates something that is void, useless, and unprofitable. The Bible spoke of some who believed in Jesus, but refused to confess Him because they feared being put out of the synagogue. They were more desirous of the praise of man than the praise of God (John 12:42-43). We must be careful that we don't allow situations in our life to cause us to act as if we have no faith.

Faith Is Essential In Prayer. Everyone should want to be confident that God is hearing their prayers, that they're not just breathing empty words towards to ceiling. If we doubt when we pray, our prayers are useless. When praying, we need to be mentally aware of God's reality, and confident that He is listening to us, and that He has the power to respond. James Taught that when a man prays, "Let him ask in faith, with no doubting..." (James 1:5-8).

Faith Is More Precious Than Gold. Gold has always been one of the most precious of commodities. Our monetary system is based upon the possession of gold. But genuine faith is far more precious and valuable than gold (1 Peter 1:7).

Faith Will Be Tested. If we have a true, genuine faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ, we can be expected to be tested while living in a faithless world. But those trials, when endured, are valuable in and of themselves, because they will strengthen our faith and result in the salvation of our souls (1 Peter 1:6-9). Don't be discouraged thinking that something is wrong when you're faced with difficult circumstances; in fact, it's abnormal for a Christian to not be tried (1 Peter 4:12-14).

Faith Is Rare. Jesus once asked a harrowing question regarding faith, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8b). Sadly, it is rare for men to have and maintain the true kind of enduring faith that pleases God and results in eternal life (Matthew 7:13-14). This fact should incline us to examine ourselves regularly to be sure we are truly in Christ (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Faith Will Be Rewarded. The Lord has promised the crown of life to those who serve Him faithfully until the end (Revelation 2:10). Peter taught that if our faith withstands the trials of life, we will have a place "reserved in heaven," and we will receive the salvation of our souls (1 Peter 1:4, 9).

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

www.defendthegospel.com

“YOU’RE NOT GOING TO CHANGE ME”

Greg Gwin

In a recent visit with a denominational preacher, it was noted that we have some real and serious doctrinal differences. “Would you be willing to discuss these in a friendly way?” I asked. He responded: “I’m not going to try to convert you, and you DEFINITELY aren’t going to change me!” While the attitude he expressed is very common these days, we think it is wrong on several levels.

1) This attitude certainly conveys the idea: “I’m right, and couldn’t possibly be wrong.” No one can afford to think that way. Consider Apollos (Acts 18). He was a well educated man from a respected center of Biblical studies; he was an eloquent speaker; and he was highly committed to spreading his message (vs. 24-25). But when he arrived in Ephesus, two ‘ordinary Christians’ (Aquila and Priscilla) recognized his faulty understanding and reached out to him with help (vs. 26). To his great credit, he accepted their instruction, changed, and went on to be a faithful and effective preacher of the Word (1 Cor. 3:4ff). That would have never happened if he had proudly said: “You DEFINITELY aren’t going to change me!” Let us all be open to the reality that we just might be wrong, and if so we WANT to be instructed “in the way of God more perfectly.”

2) This preacher’s response also suggests that he isn’t really interested in ME! We differ. He acknowledges this. Yet he has no interest in changing my understanding. How can this be? If these differences are significant enough to provoke his ‘you won’t change me’ reply, then they are surely important enough that he ought to want to change me. Yet, he says no. Out of love for my soul he should want to teach me (2 Tim. 2:25), but he won’t.

3) His reaction to the offer to study our differences also shows that he is content to remain in a divided state. In so doing, he is directly counteracting the desire and prayer of Jesus that we be united (John 17:20,21)

His response was a common one, but it exposes some seriously wrong attitudes. -

Why We Observe The Lord’s Supper Every Sunday

“Why do we observe the Lord’s Supper every Sunday? After all, most denominations observe it only a few times a year, some once a year, etc. What does the Bible say? God communicates His will to us in the same manner as we communicate with one another – by direct statements/commands, Necessary Inferences, and examples. Jesus commanded that we observe the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:24-25), by example we learn that local churches are to observe it on Sunday (Acts 20:7), and by necessary inference we learn that it should be every Sunday (Acts 20:7). The disciples came together upon the first day of the week to break bread. It is an inescapable conclusion that they did so every Sunday, just as when God told Israel to remember the Sabbath to keep it holy. He didn’t specify which Sabbath, so Israel, by necessary inference, understood it to mean every Sabbath. Act’s 20:7 didn’t say they did so every third Sunday, or on a Sunday four times a year; it just said on the first day of the week, therefore – every first day of the week. If we’re going to be biblical, then whenever any Sunday comes around, Acts 20:7 must apply. ☺ MP

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...Tony Jenkins
Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Todd
 - Serve.....John Nelson
 - Serve.....Eli Todd
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....N/A

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Eli Todd
- 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!**