

I Do, BUT I DON'T

Jim Sasser

I believe in proper methods, but I don't wear the name "Methodist". I believe in baptism, but I don't wear the name "Baptist". I believe presbyters (or elders) should oversee the local church, but I don't wear the name "Presbyterian". I believe one should be holy, but I am not a "Holiness". I believe Jesus was reared in Nazareth, but I am not a "Nazarene". I believe that these are the "last days" in which we are now living, (Heb. 1:1) and that we are called saints, (1 Cor. 1:2), but I am not a "Latter Day Saint". I believe the church should be catholic, (universal) but I don't wear the name "Catholic". I believe in unity, but I don't wear the name "Unitarian".

According to some arguments (?) used to justify the religious wearing of human names, I would really have a name. I would be a Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Holiness, Nazarene, Latter Day Saint, Unitarian, Catholic, Christian! WHEW! What a name! However, I don't wear those names which glorify a person, a method, or a doctrine. I wear the name of Him who was crucified for me; and in whose name I was baptized. (1 Cor. 1:13). Salvation is in no other name, but the name of Christ (Acts 4:12). That's why I am pleased to wear the name "Christian" (Acts 11:26), the "new name" God gave to His people after the Gentiles had seen His righteousness (Isa. 62:2), and which glorifies God (1 Pet. 4:16).

Yes, I do believe in methods, baptism, presbyters, etc., but I don't wear divisive human names, which may honor the teaching, but not the "Author and Finisher of our faith", Jesus Christ. If you obey the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16), you, too, can be simply a Christian and wear the name of Christ, which is embodied in the very word 'CHRISTian'. -

The elements of our worship, 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

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

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CONFESSION OF FAITH

Michael Pickford

How important is it for us to confess our faith in Jesus as God's Son? According to scripture, very! (Please note that we are making the biblical distinction between confession of faith and confession of sins. Lord willing, we will deal with confession of sins in another article)...

Peter Confessed His Faith. Most are familiar with Peter's famous answer to the Lord's question, "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). "Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Vs. 16).

Thomas Confessed His Faith. We remember Thomas as "Doubting Thomas," but in the end, he was "Believing" and "Confessing" Thomas. After seeing the Lord's scars, Thomas confessed, "My Lord, and My God" (John 20:28). Jesus then placed a blessing upon all those who would believe in Him without seeing His scars.

Confession Is Required For Salvation. Paul taught that one believes with the heart, and confesses unto salvation (Ro. 10:9-10). This makes confession of faith necessary for salvation. The Ethiopian Eunuch exemplified this when, before being baptized, He confessed, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:27). **More Than Confession Is Required.** In Mark 1:23-24, we have a demon confessing that Jesus was, "The Holy One of God." In order to teach that faith alone, without works, would not justify a man, James declared, "Even the demons believe and tremble" (James 2:19). Their faith would not save them, nor will their confession without obedience. One may confess Jesus and profess to be His follower, but if they do not obey Him, they will be lost (Heb. 5:8-9; Mk 16:16).

It Is A Good Confession. Paul recalled the time when Timothy, "Confessed the good confession..." (1 Timothy 6:12). Many think confessing and following Christ is shameful, and they ridicule, belittle, make fun of, and even persecute those who make the confession. But in spite of all this, confessing Christ is a "Good confession" because it leads to eternal life (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:12). **Confession Takes Courage.** Those in Jn. 12:42 would not confess Jesus because of fear. Jesus taught that the fear of persecution should not allow one to deny Him before men (Mt 10:28,32-33). We may fear losing family, or being ridiculed, but this should not cause us to refrain from confessing our faith in Jesus as the Christ.

All Should Confess Faith In Jesus. "Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Php 2:9-11). This is why Christ died on the cross!

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IT'S HARD, BUT LOVE DEMANDS IT

Greg Gwin

There are some difficult things that God commands us to do. It's hard, for example, to go to a brother or sister who has sinned, look them in the eye, and tell them that they must repent. It would be much easier to simply "look the other way", but God says we must go to them (Luke 17:3). It's hard to approach a weak Christian, point out their serious neglect of duty, and urge them to turn back to God. It would be easier to just "let it slide", but God says we must speak to them (Gal. 6:1). It's hard to finally withdraw yourself from a disciple who has sinned and refuses to repent. It would be easier to ignore the situation and act as though nothing had happened, but God says such action must be taken (1 Tim. 6:3-5). To all of you who obediently do these difficult things, we express our thanks and admiration. You are truly "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-16).

Now, may we say a word to those of you who might be on the receiving end of such actions? We hope that you understand that your brothers and sisters take no delight in doing such things. It gives them no perverse sense of pleasure. There is no morbid gratification that comes from this. Surely you can see that it is truly difficult. Your fellow Christians can think of a thousand things they would rather be doing. There is absolutely no enjoyment in this. But they do it anyway, because they know two things: 1) God commands them to do so, and 2) It is in your best interest. Please try to understand this, and if it becomes necessary for someone to come to you - in a conscientious effort to serve God and you - please respect them for it. Respect them, appreciate them, and love them for their deep concern for your soul. They are doing one of the really hard things that at God calls upon His people to do – and love demands it -

APPEALING TO THE WRONG AUTHORITY FOR MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC

Michael Pickford

In trying to justify the use of mechanical instruments of music in their worship services, many of our religious friends will appeal to the wrong source of authority. The only source of authority that pleases God is the doctrine of Christ (Col. 3:17; 2 John 9). But many transgress Christ's doctrine by appealing to...

- "I Don't Think God Would Mind": What we "Think" may cost us our souls. Paul taught us "Not to think beyond what is written" (1 Cor 4:6). Remember, "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12).
- "But It's So Beautiful": It isn't beautiful to God if He doesn't authorize it. In fact, he condemns "Will worship" (Colossians 2:23).
- "They Used Them In The Old Testament": The Law of Moses is not our standard of authority in religion. Those who tried to justify circumcision and the observance of special days by appealing to the Old Testament were condemned for such (Gal. 4:9-10; 1:6-9). The Old Law has been nailed o the cross (Col. 2:14).

Let us be content to worship God with the kind of music he specified – Singing (Ephesians 5:18-19; Col. 3:16; Heb 2:12; Jms 5:13). 🔍

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: Acts 21:26-31
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Tony Jenkins
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Eli Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

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!*