

## DON'T BE OVERLY RIGHTEOUS

Michael Pickford

Is it possible to be too righteous? Solomon made a curious statement in Ecclesiastes 7:16, "Do not be overly righteous..." What can he mean? Let's consider some possibilities...

Is he saying that we should not strive to be too good? Should we reach a certain level of spirituality and holiness, and then put on the breaks? Surely not! The Bible is clear that God wants us to keep growing until we die. God wants us to pursue holiness and righteousness, not shrink away from overdoing it; and He wanted this in Old Testament times too. God said, "Be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 12:44; 1 Pt. 1:16). That's a high standard! (Ephesians 5:1).

One possibility is that Solomon is warning against self righteousness. This is certainly worth considering. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were certainly guilty of this and the Lord rebuked them for it often. He even spoke a parable in order to highlight this fault in them. In Luke 18:9-14 we read of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, who both went to pray. The Pharisee, in his self righteousness, basically bragged to God about how righteous he was. He did not go down justified. The Tax Collector's humility got his prayers heard (1 Pt 5:5-6; Jms 4:10).

Solomon may have in mind the type of righteousness as defined by man rather than by God. God tells us how to be righteous in His word, but that isn't good enough for some, and they begin to create rules and laws on their own, seeking to establish their own righteousness, rather than God's (Rom 10:3). The Pharisees were guilty of this as well. They had developed hundreds of rigid, man-made laws and insisted they be kept (Mt 23:4)! Let us be content to serve God as He has directed in His word. Nothing more, nothing less! 🔍

**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](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

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry  
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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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## A GREAT THINKER

Michael Pickford

Many have made their mark as great thinkers. Epicurus, Zeno, Confucius, these were considered great thinkers. But God has told us exactly how to be great thinkers in Philippians 4:8, where Paul listed things we must "Think on. It's one thing to be considered and honored as a great thinker in philosophy, medicine, science, or mathematics, and these fields of interest have significant impacts on our lives while on this earth, but the things Paul told us to think on impact our eternal life in heaven. It's much better to have God regard us as great thinkers than men. **Whatever Things Are True.** Rather than getting absorbed in a society obsessed with falsehoods, let's think and speak the truth. Let's be "Honest."

**Whatever Things Are Noble (Honest).** We should provide honorable things in the sight of the Lord and of men (2 Corinthians 8:21). Gossip, slander, complaining, etc. are not honorable. Let's be praising, encouraging, and content people of God..

**Whatever Things Are Just.** We must imitate God's just nature (Eph 5:1), rather than thinking about how to swindle our fellow man. If we want to attain to our eternal inheritance, we must "Follow what is altogether just" (Deut 16:20).

**Whatever Things Are Pure.** Via internet, TV, movies, commercials, books, games, apps, and magazines, we are inundated with temptations to defile ourselves. We must take our eyes and hearts away from the filth around us, and be pure in heart, if we would see God (Mtt 5:8).

**Whatever Things Are Lovely.** We worry ourselves into a fit thinking about violence, disease, and tragedies. God has surrounded us with lovely things to reflect on. There's His creation around us, and especially our rich blessings in Christ.

**Whatever Things Are of Good Report.** Too many get delight out of tasty bits of gossip. "The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body" (Proverbs 26:22). Remember, Love does not rejoice in iniquity, but in the truth (1 Cor. 13:6). Let's put off backbiting, gossip, and slander, our fill our minds with thoughts of good news and joyous things (Eph 4:31; 3 Jn 1:3-4).

**Whatever Things Are Virtuous.** Satan would rob us of excellent thoughts and virtuous principles. Let's not allow him! Read God's word daily to keep your mind in tune with things that are virtuous.

Be a great thinker! Reflect often on these and other "Praiseworthy" things! 🔍

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## EVERY KNEE WILL BOW

Mike Thomas

We seldom agree entirely on a subject. The election process proves that. No candidate will get every vote, because we all have different opinions and perspectives on everything under the sun.

But there is a subject every human will be in complete agreement on one Day and that is the divine authority of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible says, “‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God’” (Rom. 14:11).

There will be no atheistic skeptics on Judgment Day. Everyone will realize that God is our Creator and that His Son is the only Savior of the world. “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow” (Phil. 2:10). Everyone who denies that now will be astonishingly convinced of that truth when they meet God in judgment. Frankly, every skeptic realizes it at death when they wake up in torments (Luke 16:23), but the declaration from the whole will not be official until the judgment scene.

Since this is so, “what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God” (2 Pet. 3:11-12)? We all struggle with sin, but none of us should remain in it in preparing for the Judgment. The mercy of God is available to all who will “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19).

Jesus is our only hope! But more than that, He is also our Judge (John 12:48). Why try to run from the unavoidable? Be saved today. Find redemption now (in faith) instead of waiting too late to make the great confession. Obey His gospel. “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Bow your knee now for salvation, instead of waiting till then in condemnation. -

# Love One Another

## Fervently

## With A Pure Heart

-1 Peter 1:22

# Gospel Meeting & Singing

**October 15-21**

## Preaching: Alex Ogden

### Southside church of Christ

1167 S. Lowry Street, **Smyrna, TN** 37167  
*(Located on Murfreesboro Rd. Right next to the Nissan Fitness Center)  
For Directions Call (615) 785-0646*

<p><u>Singing</u> <b>Sat, October 15</b> 7 pm <b>Everyone Welcome!</b></p>		<p><u>Gospel Meeting</u> <b>October 16-21</b> Sunday: 9:00 &amp; 10 am Sunday: 6:00 pm Monday – Friday: 7 pm</p>
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**Bring A Bible! Bring A Friend!**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com) 

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford  
Reading: 1 Peter 2:9-12
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:
  - Lead.....Kenny Johnson
  - Serve.....John Nelson
  - Serve.....Tony Jenkins
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Tony Jenkins

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Sam Miller
- 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!*