

# YOU CAN COUNT ON THE LORD

Michael Pickford

We live in a world of betrayals and backstabbing. Sometimes those closest to us betray us in ways we would not have imagined possible. Friends, teachers, and even family members forsake us when times are rough, or through impatience with our weaknesses and idiosyncrasies. What do we do? Turn to the Lord!!!

*“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.”*

-Psalm 27:10

Parents will forsake their children because of their career choice, or their choice for marriage, or worse, their choice to obey the Gospel and serve the Lord. As difficult as these situations can be, it is crucial that we remember that the Lord will take care of us, if we remain faithful to Him. We can defeat the feelings of extreme betrayal and discouragement associated with these significant ‘Forsakings’ by remembering our ultimate reward. We can stave off feelings of bitterness towards those who betray us by keeping a watch on the Lord and His presence in our lives (Heb. 12:15). Through prayer, we can overcome the anxieties and fears we experience when a friend or loved one turns their back on us (Php 4:6-7).

Remember, the Lord will take care of you, even if everyone else forsakes you. He will be there with you for comfort and strength. “And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). 🔗

## 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

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

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## COMING UP SHORT

Michael Pickford

When something comes up short, this means it is deficient, insufficient to meet the goal or need. It doesn’t meet up to the acceptable standard. We might come up short in many things, but in the area of spirituality and serving God, coming up short is eternally deadly. The Bible says we can “Fall short” of God’s grace, God’s glory, and our eternal rest (Heb 12:15; Rom 3:23; Heb 4:1). We must identify the causes of our shortcomings, and determine how to defeat them.

**We Must Fear.** Fear can keep of from falling short of our reward (Heb 4:1). Those who in their “bravado” declare, “I ain’t scared of anything,” are foolish. Healthy fear protects us from danger. If we do not fear and respect lightning for what it can do, we can lose our lives. If we do not fear and respect hell, we can lose our souls. If we don’t fear and respect God, we will be denied eternal rest.

**We Must Look Carefully.** (Heb 12:15). We must keep a watchful eye on God’s word lest we fall short of God’s grace. We must look often inwardly at our own selves to make sure we are living up to His standards. Staying focused on God’s word and will prevents our eyes from being distracted by man’s doctrines and traditions (Gal 5:4).

**We Must Feed Our Faith.** A lack of studying and applying God’s word renders a weak faith, which causes folks to come up short spiritually (Heb 4:1-2). Faith comes by hearing God’s word, and it keeps coming and growing in the same way. Neglecting daily bible study and the meetings of the church will destroy our relationship with God and His people.

**We Must Avoid Covetousness.** If we keep our minds and aspirations on the almighty dollar, then we will fall short in our service to the Almighty God (Matt 19:22-23). We cannot serve God and mammon (Matt 6:24). Many neglect critical spiritual duties because they are too busy trying to make more money.

**We Must Defeat Temptation.** We are all tempted. Even the Lord was not exempt. But we must learn to overcome and avoid sin. Sin causes one to fall short of God’s glory (Rom 3:23). Most are able to defeat temptation in relation to the “Big sins.” But all sin is big in God’s eyes. Many of us struggle with our own “Little” sins; those that easily ensnare us (Heb 12:1). We must lay them aside. We must examine ourselves, identify them, and eradicate them from our lives, or we will fall short of God’s glory (2 Cor 13:5). 🔗

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[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

# FELLOWSHIPING OR COMBATING ERROR?

Joe R. Price

J. W. McGarvey is recognized as one of the outstanding Bible scholars of the restoration movement of the 1800's. He was in the prime of his life (1829-1912) when the controversy over the use of instrumental music in church worship divided brethren in this country. While McGarvey personally opposed instrumental music in church worship, history tells us that he tried to combat it by tolerating its practice. Nearing the end of his life, he gave the following assessment of this approach to dealing with error among brethren to a young preacher. It is worth repeating:

"You are on the right road, and whatever you do, don't let anyone persuade you that you can successfully combat error by fellowshiping it and going along with it. I have tried. I believed at the start that was the only way to do it. I've never held membership in a congregation that used instrumental music. I have, however, accepted invitations to preach without distinctions between churches that used it and churches that didn't. I've gone along with their papers and magazines and things of that sort. During all these years I have taught the truth as the New Testament teaches it to every young preacher who passed through the College of the Bible. Yet, I do not know of more than six of them who are preaching the truth today. It won't work."

The New Testament also teaches us "it won't work." Accommodation with error does not promote unity (Eph. 4:3-6). It promotes compromise, corrupting those who attempt to fellowship error (2 Cor. 6:14-18; 11:2-4). It produces the loss of fellowship with God as it causes one to partake in error (2 Jn. 9-11). Yet, brethren still try to use this approach with error today - the social gospel, divorce and remarriage, evolution, denominationalism and many more. It won't work today, either. Do not bury your head in the sand! Error will not go away! It must be opposed for the sake of truth and the salvation of our souls (Jude 3-4; Gal. 2:4-5)! -

# Buy The Truth

# And Do Not Sell It

Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

-Proverbs 23:23

## 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*

**Singing**  
Sat, October 15  
7 pm  
**Everyone Welcome!**

**Gospel Meeting**  
**October 16-21**  
Sunday: 9:00 & 10 am  
Sunday: 6:00 pm  
Monday – Friday: 7 pm

*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...Sam Miller  
Reading: Matthew 10:22-26
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Tony Jenkins  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Kenny Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Michael Pickford

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

## 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!*