

## EVANGELIST

Michael Pickford

An evangelist is simply a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Greek word for "Evangelist" is defined simply as, "Gospel Preacher." In the Bible, this individual is referred to as an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5), a preacher (1 Timothy 2:7), or, he may be properly referred to as a minister (2 Timothy 4:5..."fulfill your ministry."). As with the elders and deacons, these are not fancy titles for him to wear for show, but are terms which describe the nature of the work he does in the kingdom of Christ. While an evangelist may serve as an elder (pastor, overseer) if he meets the qualifications, the term "Pastor" is not a scriptural term to apply to the preacher. The same is true with other terms such as "Reverend" or "Father" (Matthew 23:6-12).

A preacher may do his preaching while travelling to different churches, as Paul and Barnabas did (Acts 15:36). Or, he may stay in one location and work with a specific church, just as Paul stayed at Corinth for about 3 years (Acts 18:1-23). A preacher may also work in a combination of these. Some preachers work "full time" with one church, while also preaching several Gospel Meetings at other churches, and sometimes going to other countries to preach the Gospel.

Although there are other details involved in the work an evangelist is to do, the basic elements of his work include the two main things Paul instructed Timothy to do. (1) Study the word (2 Timothy 2:15). (2) "Preach the word" (2 Timothy 4:2). 🔍

---

### The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

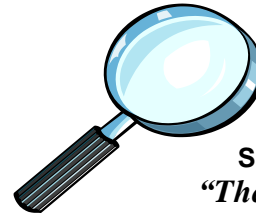
- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

## 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

Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

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

---

Volume 12, Number 44

November 06, 2016

---

## ELDERS

Michael Pickford

If you are not familiar with the church of Christ, you might be wondering at this point, "what is an elder?" In the New Testament church, the church we read about in the Bible, elders were appointed in every congregation (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). Their appointments are based upon the qualifications found in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

Elders were, and are, appointed in a plurality within the local congregation; there can never be only one elder overseeing a church at any given time (Acts 14:23; 20:7).

Elders are to provide the oversight and leadership only over the church where they are members. Elders have no authority over any aspect of the work of another congregation. Nor are they to be involved in any of the decisions made by another congregation. They are to "shepherd the flock of God which is among you..." (1 Peter 5:2).

Elders are to "feed" the flock (the members) through teaching, instruction, example, etc.(1 Peter 5:1-3). Elders, likewise, have the responsibility of guarding and protecting the flock from false teachers (Acts 20:28-30; Hebrews 13:17; Titus 1:9).

Elders are sometimes referred to as bishops (1 Timothy 3:1), overseers (Acts 20:28), pastors (Ephesians 4:11-12), and of course, elders (1 Timothy 5:17). All of these terms, as used in the Bible, refer to the same group of men – elders (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-4). None of these terms are given to these men for the purpose of flattering them with fancy titles (Matthew 23:6-12), but rather, they simply describe the nature of the work these officers do in the Lord's church.

A local church can be a faithful New Testament church without elders. The Bible says "They had appointed elders in every church" (Acts 14:23), indicating that those churches were already in existence before elders were appointed. Nevertheless, The Lord wants each church to always be working towards one day appointing elders. 🔍

---

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

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

## SAINTS

### Michael Pickford

God has given the local church a specific organization. This organization has been perverted by man over the years, but the truths of the Gospel have not changed, and “churches” need to get back to the pattern the Lord’s doctrine outlines (2 John 9). This pattern is set forth simply and clearly in Philippians 1:1, “Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the Bishops and deacons.” Other articles in this bulletin discuss evangelists, elders, and deacons; in this article, we want to deal with the “Saints.”

1) Saints are all Christians. Anyone who has obeyed the Gospel is a saint. A saint is one who has been “Sanctified,” and this occurs when he is “washed” by the blood of Christ at baptism (1 Corinthians 6:11; Acts 22:16). Catholicism promotes an erroneous system of “Sainthood” in which dead Christians are ceremonially honored and christened as “Saints.” No such process is taught or outlined in the Bible. All Christians are saints (Acts 11:27).

2) Saints have been set apart. A saint is one who is sanctified, that is, he is set apart. The Greek word is very much the same as the word for “Holy,” set apart for God’s service. A saint has been set apart, or separated from the world in the sense that he is not to live like, love, or be like the sinful world around him (1 Jn 2:15-17; James 4:4; Romans 12:1-2). He has also been set apart for special service to God as His child.

3) Saints make up the Local church. This is seen in our passages above (Php 1:1). Paul also spoke of “All the churches of the saints” in 1 Corinthians 14:33). While elders, deacons, and evangelists are also saints, the distinction made in Php 1:1 indicates that some of the saints in a particular local church may serve as elders, others as deacons, and others as evangelists. Saints are to submit to and obey the elders who are serving over the local church of which they are members (Heb 13:1, 17).

4) One cannot become a saint without being baptized. Php 1:1 speaks of the saints being “In Christ Jesus.” How does one get into Christ? Let’s allow the Bible to answer. “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 🔍

5) Saints have a hope of eternal life. Again, Php 1:1 speaks of the saints being “In Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 2:10 speaks of “Salvation” being “In Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

6) Any accountable person can become a saint. Any individual with the mental capacity of doing so may choose to become a saint and obtain a hope of eternal life. Even the worst of sinners. Those in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 who were “Sanctified” were previously deplorable sinners (vs 9-10). Do not think you have been too sinful for God to accept you. Obey the Gospel and you will be a saint! 🔍

## DEACONS

### Michael Pickford

The Greek word *diakonous* is the word from which we get our English word "deacon." The word simply denotes the idea of a "servant."

*Diakonous* is used in two ways in the New Testament: (1) Generally, (2) Specifically. It is used generally to apply to any faithful child of God in Matthew 20:26-28. It is used in a specific sense to denote an officer in the Lord's church (Philippians 1:1). Deacons are selected based on the qualifications found recorded in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

While elders are charged with the responsibility of overseeing the work of the church, deacons are to work under the direction of the elders in carrying out assigned tasks. Deacons are not "little elders." Only the elders are spoken of as being shepherds of the flock (See Elders article on front page).

As with elders, the term deacon is not meant to be a fancy title for men to have the honor of wearing (Matthew 23:8-11). It is a term to denote the fact that they are special workers (servants) within the Lord's church (1 Timothy 3:13). 🔍

#### **DUTY LIST...**

##### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd  
Reading: Joshua 23:11-16
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....John Nelson
  - Serve.....Kenny Johnson
  - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

##### **SUNDAY EVENING**

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

##### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- 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!***