

Set Your Mind

On Things Above

Not on things on the earth


-Colossians 3:2

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
 - 1st 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 13, Number 08

February 19, 2017

NEHUSHTAN

Michael Pickford

Numbers 21:6-9 describes how God dealt with Israel's complaining by sending fiery serpents among the people. They asked Moses to pray for them and God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and set it up so that when someone was bitten, they could look upon it and live. After this incident, God did not mean for the bronze serpent to have any further use, but the children of Israel had apparently made it an object of worship. During Hezekiah's reform, he reminded them that it was just a worthless piece of brass, which is the meaning of the word "Nehushtan." (2 Kings 18:4). Consider some things in religion today that can be worthless...

Worship Can be Worthless. Jesus told the Pharisees of His day that their worship was "In vain" (Matthew 15:8-9). The word "vain" means, "Useless, empty, or worthless." What made their worship worthless? Jesus said that they were worshipping according to their own man-made commands and traditions. This tells us that we are not to worship God in ways that please us, but must worship Him only as he has directed in his word (Jn 4:24; 17:17; Col 3:17).

Words Can be Worthless. We like to think that the words of our prayers are effective, and we want to have confidence that God hears them. However, Jesus condemned some for using "vain repetitions" in their prayers. Remember, the word "vain" means "worthless," so the words of their prayers were worthless (Mtt 6:5-8). They would concoct or borrow fancy sounding phrases in order to impress those around them, then they would use those phrases over and over again without sincerity, so they were empty and meaningless. We can fall into the same trap if we're not careful. Incidentally, God doesn't condemn repetitions across the board. For Jesus used repetitions in His prayers (Mtt 26:44), but we must be careful with familiar phrases in prayers, that we are praying them sincerely, and not just to impress other worshippers.

Work Can be Worthless. We can do great things in the kingdom of the Lord, and have them all amount to nothing. We get no reward from them if they are not accomplished with the motive of love. This is what Paul stressed in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. Many of his readers possessed and used marvelous miraculous spiritual gifts, yet they were using them to show off rather than out of a sincere desire to edify the church. We must work diligently in the Lord's service (Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 2:14; 3:14), but we must do so out of love for God and others. 🔍

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

www.defendthegospel.com

Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: Understanding Baptism

Weekly Memory Verse: Mark 16:16

Introduction: Baptism is a prominent theme in the New Testament. Unfortunately, it is also a very misunderstood subject. This week, let's consider many basic and crucial points regarding baptism from some very popular and clear New Testament passages.

Monday: The Baptism That Saves is Water Baptism. While we can read about various baptisms (Heb. 6:2) like John's baptism, and the baptism of the holy Spirit, by the time Paul wrote the book of Ephesians, he made it clear that there is now only one true baptism (Eph 4:4-6). In the context of 1 Peter 3:21, Peter wrote about how we are saved through water, and that we are saved by baptism, hence, it is water baptism that saves.

1. Acts 8:35-40. When he opened his mouth, what did Philip "preach?" After hearing Philip preach Jesus, what did the Eunuch want to do? Can we conclude that preaching Jesus includes preaching baptism?

Tuesday: Water Baptism Saves Because it Connects One With The Blood of Christ.

Everyone agrees that only the blood of Jesus can wash away our sins, but the crucial question is, "At what point does the blood wash away my sins?" Read the verses below to find the answer.

1. Eph 1:7; Rev 1:5; 1 Pt 1:18-19. What redeems us by washing away our sins?
2. Acts 22:16. What was Paul told to do in order to wash away his sins? So, at what point does Jesus' blood wash away our sins, that is, what must we do to have our sins washed away?

Wednesday: Baptism puts us into Christ and into the church. The Bible places salvation in Christ and in the church. Salvation is said to be "In Christ" (2 Timothy 2:10), and in the church (Eph 5:23). So if one wants to be saved, he must get into the place where salvation is – in Christ and the church.

1. Galatians 3:26-27. How did these Christian get into Christ? If they had not done this they would still be outside of Christ; could they be saved outside of Christ?
2. 1 Corinthians 12:13. Is the body the church? (Col. 1:18)? How did those at Corinth get into the body (The church) where salvation is? What does this tell us about baptism?

Thursday: Remission of sins (salvation) does not come through baptism only. While it is essential to be baptized in order to receive salvation (Mark 16:16), what's in the heart of the one

being baptized matters in regards to whether or not the baptism truly saves him.

1. Mark 16:16. What must one do before being baptized?
2. Acts 2:38. What must one do before being baptized?
3. Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-37. What must one do before getting saved by being baptized?
4. Romans 6:3-5. Where those at Rome baptized in order to get into Christ where salvation is?

Friday: If one has previously been baptized for the wrong reason, then he must be baptized again for the biblical reason in order to have his sins washed away and be saved. Many today are baptized thinking that they were already saved, and that their baptism was merely an outward sign of inward grace. But we have learned that it is actually at baptism that the blood of Jesus washes away our sins (Acts 22:16). They were baptized for the wrong reason, so their baptism did them no good.

1. Acts 19:1-5. Had these folks been baptized? Whose baptism did they receive? Was this the baptism that saves? Were they baptized again? Why?

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Tony Jenkins
Reading: Psalm 27:1-6
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- 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!*