

# JESUS CHRIST IS DEITY!

Michael Pickford

Many religious people today have different beliefs about Jesus Christ. Some think He was a wise man or a prophet; but, certainly not God. Others believe He was our savior who died on the cross for our sins, but he was not deity. “Jehovah’s Witnesses” of our day are especially popular for their denial of the deity of Christ.

However, the Bible emphasizes the deity of Christ in various places. John 1:1-2 clearly state that “The Word was God.” The “Word” is speaking of Christ Himself and this fact is made even clearer in John 1:14, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”

Titus 2:13 should be considered. “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” We have here two descriptions of the same person: “God,” and “Savior Jesus Christ.” Similarly, Colossians 1:2 mentions “Saints” and “Faithful brethren.” They’re one and the same! Titus 2:13 speaks of the “appearing” of “God.” The reference is to the Lord’s return so “God” can only be speaking of Christ.

Acts 20:28 is another significant verse. “...the church of God which he purchased with His own blood.” We know it was Christ who shed His blood for the church and not the father. Therefore, Christ is referred to as “God” in this verse.


Other passages could be cited, but, these suffice to demonstrate the deity of Christ. There is only one God, but three persons make up God. Similarly, there is only one US Senate, but 100 persons make up that one senate. Any one of those people can be called “Senator.” Any one of the three in the Godhead: Father, Son, or Holy Spirit, can be referred to as “God.” 🔍

## 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

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- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
  - 1st 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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## BAPTISM FOR THE RIGHT REASON

Michael Pickford

Small children are playing “Baptism” in the swimming pool. They’re taking turns “Baptizing” each other even saying the right words. They’re merely mimicking what they have been taught and possibly observed. Are these baptisms authentic? Are these playful “baptisms” effective in removing sin? Of course not. No one would think so. Why not? Because, these children aren’t getting baptized for the right reason; they’re just playing. But can’t each child say, “I’ve been baptized?” Certainly. However, no one believes those baptisms saved them.

Many in the religious world have been “Baptized.” But, have they been baptized for the right reason? The bible teaches the purpose of baptism. Read from your Bible the following verses and consider the reasons they state for baptism:

- Mark 16:16: Reason for baptism – to obtain salvation
- 1 Peter 3:21: Reason for baptism – to obtain salvation
- Acts 2:38: Reason for baptism – to obtain remission of sins
- Acts 22:16: Reason for baptism – to wash away sins

There are many other verses that state essentially the same things. It’s clear that the reason one gets baptized is in order to wash away their sins and be saved. Is this the reason the above mentioned children were baptized? No. So, some day they will have to be baptized for the purpose of washing away their sins and getting saved.

Many in religion get physically baptized, but, they’re doing so thinking they were already saved and that their sins had already been remitted. Like those children they were baptized for the wrong reason; hence, they must get baptized again for the right reason. In your Bible, in Acts 19:1-5, you can read about some who had been physically baptized for the wrong reason. So, they got baptized again for the right reason! Have you been baptized? Was it for the right reason? Is it possible that you need to get baptized again? 🔍

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# Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: Singing

## Weekly Memory Verse: Ephesians 5:18-19

**Introduction:** Music dates back almost to the beginning of time. In Genesis 4:21 we're told about Jubal who was the father of all those who play the harp and flute. Throughout the Old Testament, especially in the Psalms and historical books, we can read about God's people praising Him with music, both with singing and mechanical instruments. Note 2 Chronicles 29:20-29. Verse 28 says, "So all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished." However, we no longer live under the Old Testament. In the New Testament the only kind of music we read about is singing. God clearly wants Christians worshiping Him with singing exclusively without the use of mechanical instruments (Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16). Why? We're not told. It's just what God said to do. This week, let's discuss the concept of singing in worship.

### **Monday: Our authority for religious practices today derives from the New, not the Old Testament.**

1. Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:7-13. In Hebrews 8:13, what is said about the first (old) covenant? What does the word "obsolete" mean? Keeping this in mind, is it acceptable to appeal to the Old Testament to justify mechanical instruments of music in worship today?
2. 2 John 9: We are to abide in (choose one): The doctrine of Moses [or] The doctrine of Christ and Moses [or] The doctrine of Christ.
3. Acts 15:1-2: These men appealed to Moses in order to justify imposing physical circumcision on Gentile converts. Was it okay for them to do this? Did Paul and Barnabas think it was okay for them to do it (vs 2)? If it's not okay to appeal to the Old Testament in order to bring in circumcision, then why would it be okay to appeal to the Old Testament in order to bring in mechanical instruments of music?

### **Tuesday: Everyone should sing!**

1. Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16. Note the phrase "One another." Does that mean everyone should sing? God seems set on the fact that everyone should be singing. How does the concept of someone giving a solo fit into this? What about choruses, choirs, quartets, etc? Is everyone singing in those arrangements?

### **Wednesday: Our Songs should be Spiritual in nature.**

1. Ephesians 5:18-19: What three words are used to describe the types of songs we are to sing? Is it appropriate in the assemblies to sing patriotic songs, rock, southern rock, rap, etc?

### **Thursday: Our singing should praise the Lord and teach/admonish our brethren**

1. Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16: We are to make melody in our hearts to whom? We are to sing with grace in our hearts to whom? We are to teach and admonish whom? Note, we are to "Speak," not play psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Eph 5:19). This makes sense since we are to "teach" with our singing. Can I teach without words? Does a mechanical instrument of music produce words? So, can I accomplish what Ephesians 5:19 commands by playing an instrument?

### **Friday: The songs we sing should be scripturally accurate.**

1. Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16: Some of the songs in some of the hymnals teach things that are not scripturally accurate. Since we "Teach" with our singing, would we not be teaching error when we sing scripturally inaccurate lyrics? What responsibility does this place on song leaders? What might you do if a song leader leads a song that you believe to be scripturally inaccurate? (see Acts 18:24-26).

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

##### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford  
Reading: Proverbs 6:6-11
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....Jeff Isbell  
Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

##### **SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

##### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Jeff Isbell
- 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!**