

THE END OF YOUR FAITH

Michael Pickford

Peter wrote, “receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:9) Does that seem like a strange expression? “The end of your faith.” What does it mean and how should it affect my service to the Lord?

When Peter wrote about “the end of your faith” he was speaking about the results of living a life here on earth in faithful service to the Lord. What is the result? The salvation of your soul! What a wonderful prospect!

The apostle Paul spoke about his own prospect. “...I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness...” (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Paul expected to be crowned as a result of his righteousness – as a result of him keeping the faith. Peter expected those who stayed faithful to the Lord in the midst of trials to receive salvation at the end of their faith.

All of this should give us great hope and comfort. Regardless of what we must endure in this world. Regardless of how difficult it is to serve the Lord faithfully. Regardless of any criticism or mockery, or even physical discomfort we must face while serving the Lord. At the end of it all, if we stay true to the Lord, we will be blessed with eternal salvation. We will be crowned for our righteousness!

Never give up! Never flirt with the idea of leaving the Lord. You cannot be saved if you abandon ship! Keep your eye on the prize. Be faithful until death and you will receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10). 🔍

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

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

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PREJUDICE

Michael Pickford

Prejudice is defined by dictionary.com as: “2. Any preconceived opinion or feeling, either favorable or unfavorable. 3. Unreasonable feelings, opinions, or attitudes, esp. of a hostile nature, regarding a racial, religious, or national group.” When we hear the word “prejudice,” other words come to mind: Animosity, Bigotry, chauvinism, segregation, discrimination, narrow-mindedness, racism, and favoritism. These are all directly opposed to the Christian spirit. Much evil would be avoided if we would realize that there is only one race—the human race! (Acts 17:26). Prejudice leads to...

HATRED. Heinous crimes have been perpetrated against fellow humans because of this hatred that is stirred up by prejudice. To judge people based solely on the color of their skin is both ignorant and cruel. Someone once said that employers should be color blind. I believe Christians should be color blind. Martin Luther King had it right in his famous “I Have A Dream” speech when he taught that men should be judged, not based upon the color of their skin, but on the content of their character. We might as well be prejudiced against people based on the color of their eyes, or their hair color; because they are all based on the same thing...genetic codes. All of mankind God has made from one blood (Acts 17:24-26). Jesus condemned hatred of our fellow man (Matthew 5:21-26). We are even to love our enemies (Matthew 5:43-48). To hate and curse our fellow man is to do the same to God in Whose similitude man was made (James 3:9-10).

HARM. Due to prejudice acts of violence have been committed in the workplace, in the community, in public places of business, in politics, in churches, in schools, etc. When a parent shows more love and attention to one child over the other, that is, he shows partiality towards one over the other, this can lead to great harm in the family unit (Genesis 37:3-11). Prejudice has caused harm and disruption in the church. For example, the Judaizers against the Gentile Christians, including Peter’s prejudice (Acts 15:1; Galatians 2:11-16). Nathanael almost rejected Jesus due to prejudice (John 1:45-46).

HELL. If you harbor prejudice in your heart against your fellow man based on skin color, age, nationality, social status, financial status, gender, etc; If you do not repent of this, and purge the prejudice from your heart, you will lose your soul in eternal hell (James 2:9; 3:9-10). 🔍

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www.defendthegospel.com

Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: Heaven

Weekly Memory Verse: Colossians 1:5

Introduction: The Bible offers us many legitimate incentives to make us want to obey God and strive to do His will. Ultimately, our service should be driven by a deep and sincere love for God, but this does not discount the other incentives given. Jesus often warned about the prospect of eternal punishment in hell for one who does not do God's will. Why would He give such a warning if not to incentivize people to do whatever is necessary in order to avoid such a place? Heaven is presented as the ultimate reward for serving God faithfully; so, it seems strange that so many who claim to follow Christ deny the existence of heaven as a reward for faithful believers. The idea that we're not going to heaven, but rather we're going to live forever in paradise on earth is not a new one. Those who call themselves "Jehovah's Witnesses" have been teaching this doctrine for many years. However, there are many even among our own brethren who are sounding forth the same things. This week, let's focus on some Bible passages that speak of our ultimate reward – Heaven.

Monday: Heaven is a real place.

1. John 14:1-6: Where was Jesus going to prepare a place for his disciples? Where did Jesus say they would ultimately be?
2. Luke 10:20: Why were they to rejoice?
3. Colossians 1: Where is the christian's hope laid up?
4. 1 Peter 1:4: Where is our inheritance reserved?

Tuesday: Heaven is not for the disobedient/lazy.

1. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9: What awaits "those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ?"
2. Matthew 25:31-46: What will the righteous "go away into?" From the context of these verses name some things that make one righteous.

Wednesday: Heaven is a never ending place.

1. Matthew 25:46: What word did Jesus use to scribe the "Life" the righteous would receive? What does this word mean?
2. Matthew 6:19-21: Where should we lay up our treasures. What is said about this place in verse 20 and what does that mean?
3. 1 Corinthians 9:25: What word did Paul use to describe the crown the faithful would receive?

Thursday: Heaven is absent of any troubles and sorrow.

1. 1 Peter 1:3-4: List three things that are said about our "Inheritance." Try to define each of these.

2. Revelation 21:4: What will God do when we get to heaven? List four things that will be absent in heaven.
3. Revelation 21:27: One of the great pains Christians struggle with on this earth is the daily temptation to sin. Will there be a temptation to sin in heaven? Who will enter heaven?

Friday: Heaven is where our hearts should be set.

1. 1 John 2:15-17: What are we not to love? What will happen to the world? Who abides forever?
2. James 4:4: Who makes himself an enemy of God?
3. Romans 12:1-2: What are we not to pattern ourselves after?
4. Matthew 6:19-21: Where should we not lay up treasures? Why not? Where should we lay up our treasures? Why? Our heart will follow what we treasure. What should we treasure? Our hearts and minds will be focused on the place where our treasures are stored. Where should we store our treasures?
5. 1 Peter 2:11; Philippians 3:20: What are christians in this world? Where is the christian's true citizenship – his true home?

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Eli Todd
Reading: 1 John 4:1-6
- 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.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- 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!**