

## JUDGING WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Michael Pickford

We are to judge righteous judgment (John 7:24). It's tempting to just believe everything we hear without further investigation or witnesses. We insist that "It came from a reliable source." But God wants sources, in the plural. He wants us to demand evidence from two or more witnesses before passing judgment as individuals or as a church. He insists that by the mouth of two or more witnesses every word be established (Matthew 18:17-20). Anything less constitutes partiality and prejudice (1 Timothy 5:19-22).

If God, in His wisdom, had not set up these standards every bit of gossip and slander would be justified and certified as truth. Have you ever had someone tell you negative things about someone else and you just accepted it without further confirmation? If so, you are guilty violating God's wise standard and you are guilty of judging with prejudice. Even in the Old Testament God insisted on more than one witness, "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established" (Deuteronomy 19:15).


Many a good man (and woman) has been degraded and humiliated because folks accepted the testimony of only one voice. It is unfair and cruel. We should seek to hear the other side of the story before judging. We should see what the accused has to say about the matter before spreading things that could defame him and destroy the character and reputation of an innocent man (woman). I implore you, Judge righteous judgment! 🔍

### 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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## A CHRISTIAN

Michael Pickford

A christian is a disciple of Christ (Acts 11:26). It's a name given by the "Mouth of the Lord" (Isaiah 62:2). Its root word is "Christ" denoting that the christian is one who belongs to Christ and follows Him. As christians, consider...

**Our Allegiance.** Our allegiance is to Christ! Our loyalty and devotion to Him should trump all other loyalties. How sad that many have made the Lord a Lord of convenience. They'll read His word daily (Acts 17:11) if they're not too busy doing other "Important" things. They'll do the right thing if it doesn't embarrass them in front of their peers. They'll come to worship services (Hebrews 10:25) if there's not some other event going on that they "must attend." It has been well said that in one's life Christ is either Lord of all or he isn't Lord at all (Matthew 10:37-39).

**Our Adherence.** We are to adhere, not to the doctrines and traditions of men, but to the Gospel of Christ. If we are truly Christ's disciples we will refuse to transgress His doctrine even when it doesn't make sense (2 John 9). Often, man's ideas seem better than God's way. But, remember, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12). God's thoughts and ways are far superior to ours (Isaiah 55:8-9). If it were possible for God to have a foolish thought, even that foolish thought would be far wiser than the wisest thought of the most brilliant man (1 Corinthians 1:25).

Many religious folks today are not satisfied with the words of Christ; they want to do things not found on the pages of inspiration. As a result, church services have become concerts and play time. Sermons have been reduced to entertaining Toastmasters productions, and "churches" have become nothing more than a social outlet for the young. Folks today need to be reminded of Paul's words: "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17). That is, only do those things the Lord has authorized in His Gospel.

**Our Ardor.** Before Christ, as individuals, we worked at leading sinful lives. In Christ, we must labor for the Lord. Visit the sick, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, share the Gospel, etc (Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 8:4). We were created in Christ for these things (Ephesians 2:10) and our lives must abound in them (1 Corinthians 15:58). 🔍

# Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

## This Week's Theme: Prejudice

### Weekly Memory Verse: Acts 17:26

**Introduction:** Prejudice is an unfavorable opinion or feeling formed beforehand or without knowledge, thought, or reason. It is manifested in unreasonable feelings, opinions, or attitudes, especially of a hostile nature, towards 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. All of the ideas put forth by these words are directly opposite to the kind of attitude Christians should have towards their fellow man.

### Monday: Prejudice against an accused Sinner.

1 Timothy 5:19-25; Matthew 18:15-20; Proverbs 18:17

1. What is necessary before receiving an accusation? Can we always prove that someone has sinned? What if we strongly believe they have sinned but don't have adequate proof; what should our action be towards them? What do we do if the sin can be proven and the sinner does repent?

### Tuesday: Prejudice and Community.

James 3:9; Acts 25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:39

1. What are all men made in? God made every nation of men from what? What four categories of "flesh" did Paul mention in 1 Corinthians 15:39? Did he break down the "flesh of men" into different categories? In reality, is there more than one "race" among men? Is one class of men inherently better or more superior than any other class of men? Does prejudice led to hatred of our fellow man? How does Christ feel about hating our fellow man? (Matthew 5:42ff). What did social prejudice almost cause Nathanael to do? (John 1:45-46)

### Wednesday: Prejudice in the Church.

Galatians 2:11-14; James 2:1-9; Galatians 3:26-28

1. Can you think of some different factors that might cause some to be prejudiced against others? What was the factor that caused the prejudice Paul addressed in Galatians 2? What type of prejudice did James address? What royal law is violated when we practice prejudice?

### Thursday: Prejudice in Evangelism.

Romans 1:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 10:10-16, 28-29; Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19; Matthew 11:5; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4

1. Is there a different Gospel for each ethnic group? Compare how the Jews in Acts 2 became Christians to how the Gentiles in Acts

10 became Christians. Do they differ? Is everyone forgiven in the same way regardless of skin color, etc? What lesson was God trying to teach Peter with the vision of the sheet filled with all kinds of four-footed animals? In giving the great commission, who did Jesus say to preach to? In Matthew 11, who had the Gospel preached to them? Why do you think some are reluctant to try to convert the poor (Those on government programs, etc). Who did Jesus "taste death" for? Who does God want to be saved?

### Friday: Consequences of prejudice.

1. In this world prejudice can lead to many devastating consequences, some of which include social unrest, mob activity, violence, and death.
2. But, what of the eternal consequences?
3. If you harbor prejudice in your heart against your fellow man based on skin color, age, nationality, social status, level of education, financial status, sex, etc. without repenting you will lose your soul in eternal hell.
4. James 2:8-9. What do those who are prejudiced "commit"?
5. Luke 13:3, 5: Will sin cause one to lose his soul if he does not repent and receive God's forgiveness?

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Sam Miller  
Reading: Joshua 2:17-20
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Tim Thompson
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Jeff Isbell

##### SUNDAY EVENING

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

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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