



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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GOD’S WILL CAN BE UNDERSTOOD

John Isaac Edwards

Many think that the Bible cannot be understood, but we are commanded to understand it.

Paul wrote, “Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ” (Ephesians 3:4).
“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17).

Do you think God would give us a book to read, believe, and obey and then make it too difficult to understand?

When God’s word was read in Old Testament times, it was understood. “So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading” (Nehemiah 8:8). If Timothy could know the scriptures from a child (2 Timothy 3:15), surely we can come to know and understand them as well!

This does not mean that the Bible reads as a first grade reader. It simply means that with study we can understand what God expects of us without some special anointing of 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

- www.defendthegospel.com
- 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.

JUSTIFYING SIN

Michael Pickford

What a paradox. We want to serve the Lord to sooth our guilty consciences. Then, we want to sin. Paul himself alluded to this constant civil war; a war that really rages inside each of us (Romans 7:13-25). Many of us deal with this war in the wrong way. Instead of repenting of our sins in order to receive God's forgiveness and obtain that clean, painless conscience, we continue in the sin and seek to sooth the conscience in other ways (1 John 1:7-9). We seek to accomplish the impossible task of justifying our sins. It can't be done regardless of whether we think we've done it. In the end God will judge (Acts 17:30-31). Consider some ways we try to justify our sins.

The Balancing Act: Instead of repenting of our wicked deed, we try to do a good deed to cancel it out. Attend a service here, read a little Bible there. Deliver a casserole here, say a kind word there. These are commendable things, but they do not eliminate the necessity of repentance (Luke 13:3, 5).

The Comparison Method: This is the misery loves company approach. When someone publishes a book, they do all they can to find and fix all those pesky little typos. Then, after publishing, reviewers find and spotlight all the ones that were missed. Then, the author finds typos while reading someone else's book. He justifies his own mistakes by those typos. We do this as Christians. When we know we have a sin in our life that needs to be dealt with, but we don't want to fully give it up, we remove the spotlight from ourselves and sooth our conscience by looking for the flaws in others. "At least I'm not as bad as this person." "At least I haven't done what that person has done." How foolish! "But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12). The wise thing to do is to repent!

The Psychological Approach: I'm referring here to the concept of explaining away the sin as a good thing because the end result was good here on this earth. Paul condemned the concept of doing evil that good may come (Romans 3:8). The sin of presumptuousness is committed when religious people violate the authority of God in practicing things the Lord never authorized. They'll have a car wash to raise money for the church when the Lord said to have a freewill offerings on the first day of every week (1 Corinthians 16:1-3). They'll offer food to fill the pews when the Lord said to use the Gospel to draw

folks (Romans 1:16). We must do it God's way (Colossians 3:17). Would hanging out in a bar and maybe even having a beer or two be justified if we tried to share the gospel with someone at the bar while we were doing it? Of course not!

The Admitting Maneuver: This is the method by which we sooth our conscience by admitting that we have a certain problem or weakness without actually repenting of the problem. We feel better when we talk to others about our problem but then we fail to correct the problem. To take this a step further, we admit to God in prayer that we have a problem. We acknowledge it. We confess it! But then we go on living in it. We made ourselves feel as good as we need to feel through confession without repentance. God requires confession, but He also demands repentance. Whatever that sin is that so easily ensnares us, we need to repent of it. Purge it from our lives. "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us..." (Hebrews 12:2).

As Christians, we are called upon to put off sin, not justify it (Colossians 3:8). Let's continually examine ourselves, identify our sins and weaknesses, and then eliminate them with haste! (2 Cor. 13:5). ☞

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford
Reading: Proverbs 12:1-7
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Johnson
 - Serve.....Jeff Isbell
 - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Michael Pickford

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!***