


ABANDONMENT

Michael Pickford

Nothing is sadder than to hear of a parent abandoning a child. We hear of living babies being found on doorsteps of orphan homes and churches; or even in dumpsters or other unsavory places.

How could a mother abandon her child?! It's perplexing. Many have come to the point that they are without natural affection (Romans 2:31).

But there is another type of abandonment. Sometimes parents will abandon their (adult) children when those children obey the Gospel. I have known people over the years who, after obeying the Gospel, have been shunned by their own parents. It's a shame that so many are so antagonistic toward the Gospel truths.


But in all of this, we must remember that God, our heavenly Father, will never leave us or forsake us, so long as we are serving the Lord faithfully. "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me" (Psalm 27:10). "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). 

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
 - 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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THE FINAL CHAPTER

Michael Pickford

"The Final Chapter" is a phrase we've heard often. It's usually applied to an epic book, or the last movie in a series, or the last TV show of a series of seasons. In the final chapter, unanswered questions often get answered, and important events are often revisited and clarified. The final chapter of the Bible, Revelation 22, gives us some essential reminders about some crucial matters. Consider these...

- 1) **Worshipping God. Rev. 22:8-9.** John tried to worship the angel and the angel told him he should worship God. Cornelius once tried to worship Peter and Peter Told him no (Acts 10:25-26) When will men learn that only God is to be worshipped and any man or angel who accepts any form of worship will be condemned along with those who worship them (2 Ths 2:3-4).
- 2) **Obeying God. Rev. 22:14.** Men try to eliminate the need to obey God by keeping His commandments, but the Lord blessed those who do so (Lk 11:27-28). In fact, failing to obey the Gospel will bring eternal consequences (2 Ths 1:7-9).
- 3) **An Invitation. Rev. 22:17.** Anyone who desires may come to God. The same is true is Jesus' great invitation (Mt 11:28-30). This destroys the Calvinistic concept of Limited Atonement. Have you accepted the Lord's invitation to salvation on His terms? (Mk 16:16).
- 4) **Changing God's Word. Rev. 22:18-19.** God has always insisted that man obey His word exactly (Deut 4:2) Those who change His word will be shown to be liars (Pro 30:5-6); Paul placed a curse on anyone who would add to or take away from the teachings of Christ's Gospel (Gal 1:6-9). Everything we do in religion must be authorized by Christ according to his doctrine (Col 3:16-17; 2 Jn 9).
- 5) **The Lord's Return. Rev. 22:20.** God will judge the world by His Son some day. Count on it! (Acts 17:31). When the Lord returns, we will be judged based on what we did while in our bodies on this earth (2 Cor. 5:10) Even the things we thought we had kept hidden will be brought up (Rom 2:16). Obey the Gospel and watch and pray. Jesus is coming! 

THE BREVITY OF LIFE

John Isaac Edwards

The Psalmist said, “Remember how short my time is...” (Psalm 89:47). Job 14:1 records, “Man that is born of woman is of few days...” The brevity of life is expressed many different ways in the Scriptures.

As Water Spilt on the Ground. It is written, “For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground which cannot be gathered up again...” (2 Samuel 14:14).

As a Flower. The book of Job describes man as one who “...cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down...” (Job 14:1-2). The Psalmist wrote, “As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more” (Psalm 103:15-16).

As a Shadow. “...our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding” (1 Chronicles 29:15).

As a Vapour. Life “...is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:13-14). Put a pot of water on the stove burner. Watch the steam or vapor rise. Remove the pot and watch the vapor vanish away. That’s life!

As a Wind. “O remember that my life is wind...” (Job 7:7). In addition, “For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again” (Psalm 78:39).

As a Tale That Is Told. “For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told” (Psalm 90:9).

As a Post. “Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good” (Job 9:25). Our earth days are passing away like the fleet messenger.

As the Swift Ships. Our days “...are passed away as the swift ships” (Job 9:26). Stand on the seashore and watch the ships pass by. Life is swiftly passing by!

As the Eagle. The passing of man’s days are “...as the eagle that hasteth to the prey” (Job 9:26).

As a Weaver’s Shuttle. “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle...” (Job 7:6). Our earth days are short and few!

“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away....So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Psalm 90:10, 12). –

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell
Reading: Proverbs 12:22-28
- Song Leader.....Mike Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Tim Thompson
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....John Nelson
 - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
 - Serve.....Kenny Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table.....Michael Pickford

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- 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!***