

CONSUMED BY CHRIST

Michael Pickford

“If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small”
-Proverbs 24:10.

I once read a story about a schoolboy who later became a pitcher for the Cleveland Indians. Baseball consumed his thoughts so much that when a teacher required him to write a report on the magnificence of an oak tree, he wrote about how the tree could be cut down to make baseball bats and home plates.

Baseball was on that boy’s brain! Is Christ on our brain? So much that in everything we see we imagine an opportunity to grow spiritually, to apply God’s word, to invite someone to church, to ask someone for a Bible study, to talk to someone about Christ? Christ died for us so that we could be “zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14). How’s your zeal?


Too often we let other things consume us to the point of neglecting spiritual responsibilities — Work, entertainment, etc. All these are good, but if we allow them to rob us of zeal for the Lord, we need to reevaluate our lives in Christ. ☞

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

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

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

Volume 13, Number 44

November 12, 2017

“FULLY ARMED”

Michael Pickford

“Fully Armed.” If you think I got this phrase from some militia magazine, or from a political platform condemning gun ownership, or from the directions of a S.W.A.T. team leader you would be wrong. It came straight from the Bible. In fact, it’s a direct quote from Jesus Himself. The Lord said, *“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace”* (Luke 11:21).

Due to devastating current events, the concept of self protection has become a hot topic among Christians. Madmen are entering churches and taking the lives of innocent civilians while they are worshipping God. It’s frightening! These aren’t the actions of our government. They aren’t the actions of people who necessarily oppose Christianity, they are the actions of people who have been scorned by their spouse, or who have a political agenda that is racially charged.

There are some who oppose the idea of a Christian arming himself in order to protect himself, his family, his possessions, and others around him. These will have to contend with the Lord’s statement quoted above from Luke 11:21. It is a dangerous position, and as far as I can determine an unscriptural position, to affirm that it is wrong and “Un-Christ-like” to arm yourself with a gun, as many have chosen to do. Even in Old Testament times, God told His people, *“If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed”* (Exodus 22:2).

We arm ourselves to provide for our families; to provide protection for them. Why would we not want to do so in the face of real dangers? Should I sit by and watch while a criminal rapes, beats, or kills my family? Should I not do whatever is necessary to protect them? Would passivity not make me worse than an infidel? (1 Tim. 5:8). What’s more, I have an obligation to do good to my neighbor. From Jesus’ story of the good Samaritan, I learn that my neighbor is anyone whom I have the means and opportunity to protect. If I’m at the store (or in church) and those around me are threatened, should I stand by and watch? Would it be wrong if I were armed and pulled out my gun to defend the attacked? Listen to the Bible, *“Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked”* (Psalm 82:4). There are “wicked” people among us posing a deadly threat.

In light of the Lord’s statement in Luke 11 and other verses cited, how can it be wrong for me to arm myself with a gun, or a sword, or a baseball bat, etc. in order to protect my goods, my family, my brethren, and my neighbor? ☞

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

THE WRONG BAPTISM

John Isaac Edwards

Paul found at Ephesus some who had received the wrong baptism. They were baptized unto John's baptism, a baptism that was then invalid (Acts 19:1-5). Have you ever considered that you might have received the wrong baptism?

Baptized As a Baby. If you were baptized as a baby, then you have the wrong baptism. Bible baptism is "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38) and a baby has no sins (Ezekiel 18:20; Mark 10:14-15).

Baptized Thinking You Were Saved Before Baptism. If you were baptized thinking you were already saved before being baptized, you have the wrong baptism. Since salvation "is in Christ" (2 Timothy 2:10) and we are "baptized into Christ" (Galatians 3:27), we are not saved until we have been baptized. The Lord taught, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

Baptized with the Wrong Confession. Many, instead of confessing "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God", as was done in Bible days (Acts 8:37), make other confessions or leave out the confession altogether. If you did not make the proper confession when you were baptized, then you have the wrong baptism.

Baptized Having Water Sprinkled or Poured Over You. Bible baptism is not a sprinkling or pouring of water over a person, but is a burial of the whole person in water. Paul taught, "Buried with him in baptism..." (Colossians 2:12). Baptism demonstrated in Acts 8 shows a burial as "they came unto a certain water...they went down both into the water...he baptized him...and they came up out of the water"

(vv. 36-39). If you were baptized having water sprinkled or poured over you, then you have the wrong baptism.

Baptized into a Church Other Than the Lord's Church. The Bible mentions only "one body" (Ephesians 4:4), "which is the church" (Colossians 1:24). We enter the church as we are "baptized into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13). If you were baptized into a body other than the one body revealed in the Scriptures, then you have the wrong baptism.

If you have received the wrong baptism, will you do as the Ephesians who, "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:5)?—

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell
Reading: Proverbs 13:1-8
- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....Michael Pickford
 - Serve.....Kenny Todd
 - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

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!***