

A NEW SONG

Michael Pickford

“And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,”

Revelation 5:9

I love learning and singing new spiritual songs. In our passage above John speaks of a new song sang in heaven. A heavenly song!

The cause of this outburst in song seems to be the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus, the shedding of His blood. This is worthy of praise indeed! Most people wouldn't do much for a scoundrel; many wouldn't bother to help even a good man. Perhaps they lack motivation, or they're concerned their noble act may be misinterpreted, or maybe they claim they don't have the resources to assist, or could it be they fear being sued? At any rate, Jesus died for us while we were ungodly, without strength, sinners, and enemies! (Romans 5:6-9).

Consider also the content of the song. Whether or not the latter part of our verse is to be considered the exact words of the new song, they at least give us insight as to the content. Jesus redeemed us, that is, He bought us back from our servitude to sin and Satan (1 Peter 1:18-19). What a price to pay, and He didn't just pay it for certain elite ones, He paid it for every tribe, tongue, people, and nation! He died for you and for me (John 3:16). Praise Him! 🔍

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 Monday of each month at 7 pm.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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NEW THINGS

Michael Pickford

We get excited about new things: A new car, a new house, new clothes, etc. Today, we're excited about entering into a new year. The Bible has something to say about some new things. These should cause us more excitement than anything...

A New Creation. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...” (2 Corinthians 5:17). But how does one get into Christ? “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27; see also Romans 6:3). When one hears the Gospel (Romans 10:17), believes in Jesus as God's Son (John 8:24), repents of his sins (Acts 2:38), and confesses his faith (Romans 10:9-10), he is ready to be baptized into Christ and become a new creation. The old man of sin must be put to death as the new man in Christ lives in holiness and righteousness with a hope of eternal life (Romans 6:6-14, 22).

A New Covenant. The Bible also speaks of a new covenant as opposed to the Old covenant (Old Testament). “In that He says ‘A new covenant’ He has made the first obsolete...” (Hebrews 8:13). A casual reading of the context (Hebrews 8:7-12) will show that the Old covenant that has become obsolete is the Law of Moses. The Old Testament is still profitable to us in many ways, including being there for us to learn from the examples of obedience and disobedience of those who lived under it. The lessons we learn are: Obey God, be blessed; disobey God, be cursed (1 Corinthians 10:11). But insofar as religious authority for our beliefs and practices, the Old Testament has become obsolete; we are to abide in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9; Colossians 3:17).

A New Commandment. Jesus said “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another...” (John 13:34). God had commanded love towards one another in the Old Testament, so why does He call this a “New Commandment?” It would seem new to the Jews living in His day because for all practical purposes they had removed the concept of love from God's law. Their service to God was purely ritualistic, mechanical service. They served God strictly out of a response to a command rather than out of true love for Him and their fellow man. Not so in Christ! If we will love God and man as we should, all His commandments for us will just naturally fall into place (Romans 13:10; 1 John 5:3). 🔍

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www.defendthegospel.com

IN THIS NEW YEAR

Michael Pickford

Set Goals

Once again, God has blessed us with the beginning of a new year. This is a time when many evaluate their lives and try to set new goals to better themselves. Let me suggest some things we might need to do to better ourselves in this new year.

1) Pray With Persistence: Persistent prayer is an essential part of the life of a child of God. Paul said to “Pray without ceasing,” yet many cease without praying (1 Thess. 5:17). The Lord said “that men always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1). He then told the story of the widow who finally got what she was after because of her persistence. How is your prayer life?

2) Study The Scriptures: Long ago, God said through Hosea “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). A lack of knowledge of God’s word continues to destroy today. Don’t remain ignorant of God’s writings. Search the scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Our society has created many diversions in the form of entertainment, employment, etc. which take up too much of our precious time. Find time to pray and study the word of the Lord!

3) Run The Race: Too many have fallen out of the race and become unfaithful to the Lord. Remember, it is only he who remains faithful until death who will receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10). Be like Paul, and finish on top (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

What will you do *in this new year?* ☞

Resolutions

This is the time of year when people in the world begin to make several different resolutions in their lives. Many of these are for the purpose of making themselves better in some way. Some resolve to quit smoking, or drinking, or to lose some weight. To resolve to do something is to make a firm decision and commitment to accomplish it. It’s interesting to hear people boast of their resolutions, and then watch as they break them in a few days or weeks.

I want to suggest to you that when one becomes a Christian, he makes many resolutions himself. I will give a quick, non-exhaustive list here of things that we should all resolve to do. Maybe you’ll find some of these lacking in your life. If so, resolve to do them beginning now.

- Study God’s word daily (Acts 17:11)
- Pray regularly (1 Thess. 5:17)
- Be faithful to God (Rev. 2:10)
- Attend services faithfully (Heb. 10:25)
- Be hospitable (Rom 12:13)
- Forgive others (Eph 4:32)
- Love your enemies (Matt. 5:44)
- Contribute more (2 Cor. 9:6,7)
- Share your faith with others (Heb. 5:12)
- And especially, if you’re not yet a Christian...Obey the Gospel! (Heb. 5:8,9)

Have you made your resolutions? ☞

A NEW MIND

Michael Pickford

Paul wrote in Romans 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Paul isn’t saying here that we shouldn’t emulate things in the world that are good, or spiritually neutral. It is the evil things of the world that he doesn’t want us to conform to.

God told His children long ago “You shall not follow a crowd to do evil” (Exodus 23:2). Just because everyone else is doing it doesn’t make it right. James wrote “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?” (James 4:4).

Instead, we must renew our minds. You are what you eat. If we fill our bodies with garbage our bodies will function poorly. This is true mentally, emotionally and spiritually as well. If we fill our heads with violence and immorality from questionable books, video games, movies and music; we’ll become like that. If we fill our minds with God’s word, we will renew our minds and become more God-like.

Let’s always be on a quest for a new mind in Christ Jesus. ☞

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson
Reading: Proverbs 14:22-28
- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Todd
 - Serve.....Mike Pickford
 - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Eli Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Eli Todd
- Invitation.....Mike 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!***