

“LOOK AT ALL THE GOOD IT DOES”

Michael Pickford

The title is a phrase we hear often from folks who can't find biblical authority for their religious practices. If they can't appeal to scripture, they appeal to results by saying, “But look at all the good it does.”

This isn't a new argument. Eve used the same reasoning just before she ate of the forbidden fruit in the garden. And look at what that led to. She “saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise...” (Genesis 3:6). In other words, “Look at all the good it will do.”

God had granted Adam and Eve the authority to eat of all the other trees in the garden. But, He had not given them authority to eat of the tree in the midst of the garden (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:2-3). Regardless of all the good Eve thought it would do, she did not have authority to eat of that tree.

In the end, Eve's action cost her and Adam their lives (along with the rest of us). In the end, doing things in religion without God's authority will cost the violators their eternal lives (Matthew 7:21-23), even when they thought they were serving Him and doing good.

Oh that all in religion today would stop trying to justify unauthorized religious practices by exclaiming, “Look at all the good it does.” Let's go back to the beginning and learn the lesson from Eve. Let's be content with doing things God's way rather than presuming that we know a better way to go about it. 🔍

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.



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

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SIN

Michael Pickford

Sin first entered the world in the Garden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. Men have chosen to give in to its lure ever since. Sin is a transgression of God's law (Romans 4:15; 1 John 3:4), and only one Man—Jesus, the Christ—has ever avoided it altogether (1 Peter 2:22). Let's take a moment to remind ourselves of seven important facts regarding sin ...

Sin Is By Choice. When we sin, we have no one else to blame. We chose to do so (Ezekiel 18:20).

Sin Separates One From God. When one sins, he loses fellowship with God. He is separated from God and lost in sin (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Sin Is Pleasurable. Sin brings pleasure, hence it's lure (Hebrews 11:25). If sin wasn't pleasurable no one would chose to sin. Its strength is in the pleasure it offers. Just because something feels good, that doesn't mean it's right.

Sin Does Not Satisfy. Sin is “passing” or “seasonable” (Hebrews 11:25). That is, the pleasure it offers is temporary. There are no aspects of sin that offers true lasting satisfaction. It's not worth it.

Sin Is A Challenge To Everyone. Sometimes we feel the burden I too strong. We feel like we face tougher challenges than anyone else. Not so. Sin is “common to man” 1 Corinthians 10:13. However, God gives us the opportunity and strength to escape its lure.

Sin Condemns The Soul. Sin is pleasurable but it also condemns the soul if not repented of and forgiven. Remember, sin separates from God, and one cannot be saved eternally if he remains separated from God. Keep this in mind before choosing to sin.

Sin Is Washed Away Only By Christ's Blood. What can wash away my sin? Nothing, but the blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1:18, 19). When does the blood of Jesus wash away my sin? For one outside of Christ, his sins are washed away by the blood at the point of baptism (Acts 22:16). For the Christian who sins or is entangled again in a life of sin, his sins are washed away (cleansed) when he repents, confesses the sin(s), and asks God to forgive him (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9). Sin is by choice, but before you sin, remember that it will separate you from God and cost you your soul without offering anything but a moment of pleasure in return. It's not worth it. 🔍

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FLOATING PARTS AND FIERY CARTS

Eric Reynolds

2 Kings 6 records two fascinating miracles from the life of the prophet Elisha. First is the floating axe head. One of Elisha's students was cutting a tree by the Jordan river when suddenly the head flew off his axe and into the river. To make matters worse, the axe was borrowed (isn't that always how it goes when you borrow a tool?) Amazingly, through God's power Elisha caused the iron axe head to float to the service so the man could retrieve it.

Later in the chapter, Elisha's town was surrounded overnight by the Syrian's "horses and chariots and a great army." When Elisha's servant went out in the morning and saw the enemy all around, he cried out, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" Elisha replied, "those who are with us are more than those who are with them," then prayed for the servant's eyes to be opened. Suddenly the servant was able to see that the mountain was "full of horses and chariots of fire"—the Lord's army! The Syrians did no harm to Elisha or his town that day.

Of all the various lessons we might gain from these captivating miracles, it is worth noting that no problem is too small to escape God's notice or too big for him to handle. Some days we are distressed by a seemingly trivial matter like the lost axe head. Other days the magnitude of the problem seems insurmountable, as if we are completely overwhelmed and surrounded. In either case, Christians are told, "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7, ESV).

We can have peace knowing that the same God who knows when a sparrow falls to the ground is also aware of our smallest problems and more powerful than our biggest fears. "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). The enemy is always outnumbered if we are on God's side. -

DEPENDENCE ON GOD

Michael Pickford

An eight-year-old boy prayed, "God bless our mothers, and our fathers, and our teachers, and our brothers and our sisters – and please take care of yourself, God; if anything happens to you, we're sunk!"

As adults, we're quite certain nothing will happen to endanger God. But, this child's prayer reflects a simple honest dependency upon God. It displays his attitude of full dependence upon the Almighty.

What is a "Given" to his young mind is something we often forget, that, "*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...*" (James 1:17). ☺

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Mike Pickford
Reading: Proverbs 15:1-7
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Johnson
 - Serve.....Jeff Isbell
 - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Mike Pickford

SUNDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- 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!***