

## LIMITED BOUNDARIES

Michael Pickford

A child once felt sorry for his family's goldfish; so, he took them out of their small bowl and placed them into the large garden tub half full of water thinking they would be excited to have more room to swim in. However, the fish simply swam in the same small circles they were accustomed to in the bowl. It had been programmed into them.

Sometimes we refuse to swim in larger circles. We don't want to get out of the comfort zone of our own close friends and family. Never mind trying to speak with strangers about the Gospel.

This is a sad state to be in. Jesus' apostles were not social butterflies accustomed to getting out and speaking to strangers. They were fishermen, tax collectors, and so forth. But, Jesus commissioned them to go out into the world.

Let's remember three facts. 1) The people in the world around us are lost and destined for eternal punishment. 2) God loves these people and wants them to hear the Gospel and be saved. 3) The early disciples went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4).

Maybe we're just small fish swimming in a large bowl. But, let's learn to swim in bigger circles for the Lord. 🔍

### 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](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> 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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## NO ESCAPE

Michael Pickford

We sometimes hear that there are only two things you can't escape – death and taxes. It may be true that we can't escape those things, but spiritually speaking, there are several things we can't escape. Let's consider a few.

**We Can't Escape Personal Responsibility.** The Gospel has gone forth into the world. Before the end of the first century, "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the end of the world" (Romans 10:18; Colossians 1:6, 23). All men have a personal responsibility to obey it and live faithful lives to the Lord (Hebrews 5:8-9; Revelation 2:10).

**We Can't Escape God's Eyes.** We may think we're getting away with something. We may think we're hiding something. Maybe we are hiding it from others, but, God sees and knows all. "And there is no creature hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13). That verse should make us tremble.

**We Can't Escape Influencing Others.** Our lives will influence others either for good or bad. It's our choice. Let's do justly, love mercy, and walk through life humbly with our God, hoping to influence others down the same path (Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:11-12).

**We Can't Escape Death.** We go to the doctor, eat right, and exercise. We may even live beyond seventy or eighty years. But ultimately, we will die. Everyone knows this (Ecclesiastes 9:5). We all have an appointment with it (Hebrews 9:27). Are you living in such a way as to be ready when it's your turn to die?

**We Can't Escape Judgment.** "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). If you've ever stood before a judge in a court of law, that is of no significance when compared to standing before the Lord on the last day. He will judge us all based on the things done while in the body (2 Corinthians 5:10). Therefore, there will be no second chance once we leave our body. Obey the Lord and serve Him faithfully, and you will be prepared.

**We Can't Escape Eternity.** Many think we'll simply cease to exist at death. But death is merely when our souls leave our bodies (James 2:26). Our soul will go either to heaven or hell. The choice is ours, Obey the Gospel today! (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) 🔍

# THE LIFE JESUS TEACHES YOU TO LIVE

David Eldridge

Many people are concerned about what life is all about and what they should do with it. We would do well to be concerned about such things – what we do in life determines where we will be eternally. The good news is that Jesus, the King of kings, gives us the answer. Jesus teaches that you should live...

**An Unashamed Life:** Jesus declared, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels” (Mk. 8:38). He also taught, “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 10:32-33). Some are ashamed of Jesus and refuse to confess Him. Why? Because they love the praise of men more than the praise of God (Jn. 12:42-43). Paul lived with “earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed” (Phil. 1:20). We would do well to imitate him. In such determination, he was not ashamed of Jesus (2 Tim. 1:12) or His words (Rom. 1:16). Are you ashamed of Jesus and His words? Jesus teaches that in these things, you should live a life that is unashamed!

**A Prioritized Life:** Jesus taught of the importance of priorities when He said, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?” (Matt. 6:25). There is more to life than those things people often deem the most important. Having the wrong priorities (e.g. riches and pleasures of this life) will destroy the souls of many (cf. Matt. 6:24; Lk. 8:14). To live the life you should, you must put first things first. Jesus taught, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...” (Matt. 6:33). Do you live a properly prioritized life, putting God first in everything?

**A Sacrificial Life:** Jesus also teaches that you should live a sacrificial life. He said, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it” (Mk. 8:34-35). Paul declared that if you would “prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God,” you must be willing to

“present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom.12:1-2). Someone may ask, “Is it worth the sacrifices I will make to serve the Lord?” When that question was on Peter’s mind, Jesus said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time...and in the age to come, eternal life” (Mk. 10:29-30). Jesus teaches that you should live a sacrificial life!

**An Obedient Life:** Jesus told the rich, young ruler, “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matt. 19:17). Though Jesus was speaking of the Ten Commandments, still to enter into life today, you must keep the commandments of Jesus. John wrote, “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city” (Rev. 22:14). Have you heeded the words of Jesus? Are you living an obedient life?

*What kind of life are you living? -*

## **DUTY LIST...**

### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glen Isbell  
Reading: Proverbs 15:15-20
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....Tim Thompson
  - Serve.....Jeff Isbell
  - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

### **SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Lord’s Table.....Tim Thompson

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- 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!***