

## DEEP THOUGHTS

Michael Pickford

The average depth of the Pacific ocean is 14,000 feet! The average depth of the oceans collectively is 12,200 feet! That's well over two miles! Micah tells us that God will "cast all our sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19). What a powerful way to say that when God forgives a sin, it's gone forever!

Before you do something that might cause someone to sin, you might want to consider Jesus' words of Matthew 18:6. According to Him, if you caused someone to sin, you would be better off if someone hung a millstone around your neck and cast you into the depth of the sea.


Some think they can hide from God, just as Jonah thought he could run from God. But God sees all, and nothing is out of His reach (Hebrews 4:13). You may hide sin from men, but God knows, and He will punish if you don't repent. About His enemies, God said, "I will bring them back from the depths of the sea" (Psalm 68:22). Amos 9:2-4 teaches the same thing. Even if the hiding place is on the ocean floor, sinners can't hide from God. -

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](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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## USELESS THINGS

Michael Pickford

Numbers 21:6-9 describes how God dealt with Israel's complaining. He sent fiery serpents among the people. They asked Moses to pray for them. God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and set it up. When a serpent bit someone, they could look upon the bronze serpent and live. After this incident, God did not mean for the bronze serpent to have any further use, but the children of Israel had apparently made it an object of worship. During Hezekiah's reform, he reminded them it was just a worthless piece of brass, which is the meaning of the word "Nehushtan." (2 Kings 18:4). Consider seven things in religion today that are useless...

- **Faith Without Works:** James 2:17, 19-20, 24, 26; Heb 5:8-9
- **Works Without Faith:** Heb. 11:6; Matt 6:1, 5; 23:5; Acts 10:1-2; Acts 11:14
- **Works Without Love:** 1 Cor. 13:1-3; Lk 6:32-36; Mt 7:12
- **Works Without Authority:** Mtt 7:21-23; Co 3:17; 1 Jn 2:6; Php 4:9; Acts 20:7; Heb 7:14; Eph 5:19
- **Religion Without Purity:** Jms 1:26-27; Mtt 25:31-46
- **Faith Without Resurrection:** 1 Cor. 15:12-19
- **Zeal Without Knowledge:** Titus 2:14; 3:14; Rom 10:1-3; Rom 6:17, 3-5; Mk 16:16; Gal 1:13-14; Judg. 6:28-32

## GIVING

David Eldridge

There are times when we are focused on giving. To “give” is to freely transfer possession of something to someone else. The word “give” can also mean to carry out or perform some action. As we read through the pages of inspiration, we find that there are a number of things the Bible calls upon us to give. Consider that the Scripture emphasizes the need to give...

**Yourself:** Paul commended the churches of Macedonia because “they first gave themselves to the Lord...” (2 Cor. 8:5). Christians would find it easier and more fulfilling to obey the Lord if they first were to give themselves completely to the Him. In fact, giving yourself wholly to the Lord as a living sacrifice is the only way to be accepted by Him. Paul said, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom.12:1). Have you given yourself to the Lord?

**Thanks:** The apostle wrote, “We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Col. 1:3). Many are ungrateful and thankless. Yet God desires us to be a thankful people: “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:18). You and I have so many good blessings, both spiritual and physical, for which to give thanks. Thankfulness should always abide in the heart which remembers that, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” (Jas. 1:17). Are you regularly giving thanks to God?

**Alms:** Jesus told His disciples, “Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys” (Lk. 12:33). To “give alms” is to show compassion by helping those who are in need. Paul commanded a man to “labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need” (Eph. 4:28). God is pleased when we are compassionate and help those who are in need of things we can supply (Rom. 12:13; 1 Tim. 6:18; Heb. 13:16). Are you giving alms, helping those in need?

**Heed:** “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away” (Heb. 2:1). We “must” give earnest heed to the things we have heard through the Christ in His gospel. To “heed”

is to carefully pay attention or give something consideration. The apostle goes on to give the reason we must give heed to these things – one who fails to do so will not escape the eternal punishment of God (Heb. 2:2-4). Do you give earnest heed to the words of Jesus revealed in the New Testament?

**Defense:** Peter said we must “always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15). One need not look far to see that the gospel needs to be defended. We must then, by study and practice, always be ready for the important task of giving a defense. Thus, we will be able “to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). Are you always ready to give a defense?

**Account:** One great Day, “each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12). The wise man told us how to prepare for this time: “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Eccl. 12:13-14). There is a Great Day coming!

Are you prepared to give account of yourself to God? -

### **DUTY LIST...**

#### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd  
Reading: Proverbs 16:17-24
- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....John Nelson
  - Serve.....Kenny Johnson
  - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Jeff Isbell

#### **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!***