

OH, give THANKS

to *THE Lord!*

CALL **upon**

H I S Name.

- Psalm 105:1

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 night of each month Following Services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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SPIRITUAL HARMONY

Michael Pickford

Harmony is agreement, or concord. We often associate the word with music. A flute may seem less significant than a Saxophone. And what about the one who plays the triangle? And yet, if you remove the triangle or the flute, you lose something significant. The musical piece isn't as lovely. Each instrument plays different notes too. The result is a beautiful melody. Paul wrote, "those members of the body which seem weaker are necessary" (1 Corinthians 12:22) .

The Corinthians had perverted the miraculous spiritual gifts they possessed. Instead of using them in a loving way that would produce harmony and edification for everyone, they used them as tools for self promotion. They seemed to be bickering over which was the greatest gift. The tongue speakers felt they were more important to the body than, say, those who discerned spirits. The prophets felt the same way. Paul used the human body to illustrate his point. He asked the question, "If the whole body were an eye, were would be the hearing?" (vs 17). Some parts of the human body seem less significant. That pinkie toe seems useless when compared to the eye. You don't even think about it. But let it get an ingrown toenail. The whole body will hurt. Or try whacking against the leg of the coffee table.

We don't possess miraculous spiritual gifts today. But the principle Paul laid down in chapters 12 through 14 of 1 Corinthians still applies. Many today treat the local church like a totem pole. The good song leaders sometimes get caught up in pride, thinking themselves more important than the disabled widow. Or maybe it's the member who's been a Christian for decades and has a significant amount of knowledge. He thinks he's better than the one who's been a Christian for only a few months. Elders serve a different function in the local body, but they are no more important to Christ than the fifteen-year-old girl who just obeyed the gospel. All are equally important and essential to the local body.

In any given local church there are members who have been Christians for decades and have a better understanding than those who are novices in the faith. But they can all be united and work together in harmony because they can chose love above all else. Bearing with one another and encouraging one another—that's the key! So, Paul says, "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13). ☺

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www.defendthegospel.com

TRAVELING THE ROAD

David Eldridge

The last few weeks, I have spent a considerable amount of time in travel. Reflection on this had me thinking about some lessons learned from traveling the road. Consider that...

Sometimes The Road Gets Rough: Especially in Indiana! The colder weather means potholes and the Indiana roads were full of them – I’m pretty sure my truck now needs alignment! Sometimes life’s road is rough. There are trials, heartaches, disappointments, illnesses, and deaths. We see this with Paul. On his life’s road, when he ran into the pothole of his “thorn in the flesh,” he “pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from him.” The Lord didn’t remove the rough spot. Instead, he promised, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Paul took courage in this, saying, “Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor. 12:8-10). God never promised that life would be easy (not even for His people), but He has promised to be with us every step of the way! When you hit the potholes in life’s road, you need to keep going with the Lord’s help. The destination will be worth the rough ride!

You Must Take The Right Road: Going to the Kentucky meeting, if I had taken and stayed on Interstate 40 east from Cookeville, I would have never arrived where I wanted to be because I took the wrong road. So it is spiritually. Jesus said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:13-14). The path you take determines your destination. Thankfully, God has given us a “GPS” – His word. It gives us turn-by-turn directions to life eternal. Remember, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16). Are you taking the path that leads to life outlined in the Bible? If not, you will never reach the destination of Heaven!

The Desire To Get Home: I enjoy, and am so thankful to God for, the opportunity to go to other places and declare the precious gospel of Jesus

Christ. However, when the meeting is over, my biggest desire is to get home to Susan, Eliza, and Emma. On the way home from Indiana this past week, there were places I could have stopped and distractions I could have entertained, but the desire to be home was so strong that I just kept driving forward. Would to God that we would do the same in our spiritual lives! This life is full of things that would distract us spiritually. If entertained these invite spiritual ruin. Jesus spoke of those who would allow “the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things” to enter in and “choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful” (Mk. 4:19). Demas fell to this, “having loved this present world” (2 Tim. 4:10). Our desire to get home should be so great that nothing can distract us on the road to Heaven. Note Paul’s ambition: “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:13-14). May we also do that “one thing,” desiring to be home with God so greatly that we single-mindedly drive daily towards that goal! -

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Tim Thompson
Reading: Proverbs 19:8-14
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Eli Todd
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Jeff Isbell
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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