

# A *Soft* ANSWER *Turns away wrath.*


- Proverbs 15:1

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

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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> 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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### JUMPING THE GUN

Michael Pickford

The phrase, "Jumping the gun" originated with foot races. The race was often started by someone firing a pistol into the air. The sound of the blast meant *Go* for the runners. Sometimes runners would begin a little too soon—before the gunshot. Doing so constituted jumping the gun. But the phrase is often used today to indicate something that occurs too early. There are some spiritual lessons we can consider from the phrase.

One can jump the gun in judgment. We are commanded to judge, but it must be righteous judgment and not according to appearance (John 7:24). Judging by appearance constitutes prejudice—one makes a judgment before hearing all the facts. Paul urged Timothy not to accept an accusation against an elder until he had investigated the matter and confirmed the charge (1 Timothy 5:17-25). We sometimes jump the gun when we automatically accept something bad we hear about someone before checking the facts. Sometimes we pre-judge in matters of evangelism. We assume someone won't listen to thoughts about Jesus because of their lifestyle or their social and financial situation. Don't jump the gun with that conclusion. Just share the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20).

One can jump the gun with his words. We often speak too quickly. And we say things before we've had a chance to think them through. "Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him" (Proverbs 29:20). This proverb teaches that it's beyond foolishness to jump the gun with our words. It's better to say nothing at all than to speak hastily and do harm with our spur-of-the-moment comments. James wrote, "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19).

One can also jump the gun in marriage. God intends for marriage to last a lifetime. One only has the right to put their spouse away for fornication (Matthew 19:9). It's a serious matter. Young folks need to be patient. The most important thing in your life should be your service to the Lord. Give that serious consideration before going to the altar.

Don't jump the gun! 🔍

# CHRISTIANS WITH NO DENOMINATIONAL TIES

Bill Hall

God places great emphasis on names. He changed Abram's name to Abraham (Gen 17:5). Sarai's name to Sarah (Gen 17:15), and Jacob's name to Israel (Gen 32:38). He gave to John and Jesus their names before they were born (Luke 1:13, 31). He has given to His people of this age the name "*Christian*" (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16). He has given no sectarian or denominational names, but rather condemns them (1 Cor 1:10-13). The great need of our day is for men and women to forsake their denominational ties, be nothing but Christians, and call themselves "Christians", with no other religious names.

It is of interest to note that leaders in the prominent denominations, including some of their founders, recognized and preached this truth. N. B. Hardeman, in his *Tabernacle Sermons* (Vol. 4, pp216-217), gives quotes from Charles Spurgeon, Martin Luther and John Wesley in which they plead for unity.

**Charles Spurgeon**, a prominent Baptist preacher, is quoted as saying: "I look forward, with pleasure, to the day when there will not be a Baptist living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ's name endure forever." (*Spurgeon's Memorial Library*, Vol. 1, p168).

The quote from **Martin Luther**: "I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for anyone. St. Paul would not let any call themselves after Paul, nor of Peter, but of Christ. How then, does it befit me, a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of God? Cease, my dear friends, to cling to these party names and distinctions: away with them all; and let us call ourselves only Christians after Him whom our doctrine comes." (*The Life of Luther*, by Stork, p289).

Brother Hardeman's quote from **John Wesley**, founder of the Methodist church: "Would to God that all party names and unscriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christian

would were forgot; that we might all agree to sit down together as humble, loving disciples at the feet of a common Master, to hear His words, to imbibe His spirit, and to transcribe His life into ours."

We cannot help but wonder what changes would have taken place in religious history had the followers of these men heeded their pleas. The pleas, however, went unheeded. Denominationalism with its religious division exists and will continue to exist until our Lord comes to "*root it up*" (Matt 15:13). But meanwhile, no one has to be a part of the denominational system; no one should be a part of it. Today, one can be just a Christian - as was Paul, or Peter, or James, or John with membership in nothing but a local church made up of other Christians. Faithful churches of Christ, with no denominational affiliations, meet throughout the world. –

## DUTY LIST...

### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Tim Thompson  
Reading: Proverbs 22:16-22
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Jason Hubbard
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....Jeff Isbell  
Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Eli 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!**