

The **LORD** *will give* STRENGTH

TO HIS *People.*

The Lord will bless HIS PEOPLE

with *Peace.*


- Psalm 29:11

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
 - 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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"WORTHY"

Michael Pickford

To be worthy is to have or show the qualities or abilities that merit recognition in a specified way. This could be said of a person, a thing, or a situation. Consider some Bible passages that speak of being worthy.

1. Worthy Repentance: John told his audience to bear fruits worthy of repentance (Matthew 3:8). This begins with the decision to change, but we must follow up on that decision.
2. A Saying Worthy of Acceptance: That Jesus came to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). Jesus said he came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). This includes all those lost in sin. No one has sinned so badly that Christ won't save them when they obey the Gospel.
3. A Worthy Workman: The laborer is worthy of his wages. Preachers should do the work of an evangelist. And when he does, he should be paid a livable wage (1 Corinthians 9:14).
4. A Worthy Walk: Paul exhorts Christians to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called" (Ephesians 4:1). We were called by the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 14). If we study the Gospel and live by it we will be walking worthy.
5. Worthy Of The Kingdom. 2 Thessalonians 1:5. We'll be counted worthy of the kingdom if we faithfully endure the persecutions and hardships associated with living holy in a wicked world. ☺

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA: SMYRNA

David Eldridge

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death’” (Rev. 2:8-11).

The second church spoken to by the Lord in Revelation is the church at Smyrna. In Jesus’ words to them, there is nothing about which the church at Smyrna is chastised – the only other church in these seven letters to have this distinction is Philadelphia. There are many valuable lessons we can learn from this church.

A Tested Church: Great tribulation had come upon the church at Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-9). This persecution came in part from the Jews located there (cf. Rev. 2:9). They were going to have to continue enduring persecution for some time to come according to verse 10. We should expect no less today as “...all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). How are we standing up to the testing?

A Poor Church: The Lord knew of the poverty the Christians at Smyrna suffered (Rev. 2:9). They could have been poor from their conversion or it may have been that they had become impoverished as a result of the persecution. Either way, they were stricken by poverty. Some allow their circumstances to dictate their dedication to the Lord. Yet, in the midst of their poverty, the church at Smyrna remained faithful as they trusted in the Lord.

A Rich Church: Though Jesus knew their poverty, He said, “but you are rich” (Rev. 2:9). The church at Smyrna was poor physically, but they were rich spiritually. James wrote, “Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?” (Jas. 2:5). May we ever realize that being rich towards God is what is most important! These brethren had heeded the words, “Do not lay up for yourselves

treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matt. 6:19-21). If one possesses none of the material treasures of this world yet possesses the “unsearchable riches of Christ” (Eph. 3:8), they have everything that makes one truly rich!

A Hopeful Church: The church at Smyrna, though in physical poverty and great persecution (both present and impending), was given hope by the Lord. Jesus said, “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life...He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death” (Rev. 2:10-11). A life lived in faithfulness is a life lived in hope of better things once this life has ended.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev. 2:7)..–

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson
Reading: Proverbs 23:29-35
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
Serve.....TBA
- Closing Prayer.....Jason Hubbard

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table.....Michael Pickford

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael 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!***