



# ***SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER***

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry  
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

*“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11*

Volume 15, Number 02

January 13, 2019

## **THE GREAT INVITATION**

Michael Pickford

We often refer to the Lord’s words in Matthew 11:28-30 as “The Great Invitation.” The Bible doesn’t refer to it as such, but consider three things with me that truly make it great.

**ITS REACH.** Jesus invited ALL who labor and are heavy laden under the burden of the guilt of their sin to come to Him. Nationality doesn’t matter. Social status, financial status, employment status; none of these matter. Age doesn’t matter for those who have reached the age of accountability. How much you’ve sinned doesn’t matter. No one has been too sinful to have God’s forgiveness if they come to the Lord on His terms (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

**ITS REQUIREMENTS.** The invitation requires obedience to the Gospel (2 Thes 1:7-9; Heb 5:8-9; Rom 10:16). Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you.” This indicates requirements. Hear the Gospel, believe in Jesus as God’s Son, repent of your sins, confess your faith, and be baptized. That’s how to you come to Jesus (Rom 10:17; John 8:24; Acts 2:38; Rom 10:9-10; Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16).

**ITS REWARDS.** The rewards of coming to Jesus are incomparable. Jesus said, “You will find rest for your souls.” This rest comes in two phases. First, you get rest while still living. You get peace and forgiveness, thus, rest for your soul. Second, you inherit eternal rest in heaven (Col 1:5; Jn 14:1-6; 1 Pt 1:3-5; Rev 2:10; Titus 1:2).

What are you waiting on? Come to Jesus! 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

*“I thank my God,  
Making mention of you always  
In my prayers.”*

- Philemon 1:4

**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

way rather than presuming that we know a better way to go about it. 🔍



### **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> Sunday night of each month Following Services.

# PICTURES OF JESUS

David Eldridge

“We wish to see Jesus” (Jn. 12:21). Have you ever seen a picture of Jesus? You have probably seen some representation that had come from the mind of men. The reality is that no one today knows what Jesus looked like while He lived in the flesh. Nevertheless, if you read the Bible, you will see the many ways Jesus is pictured throughout the word of God. Some latch on to one of these images to the exclusion of the others. Let us consider some of the pictures used to portray Jesus that we might have a more “complete picture” of our Lord.

**He Is Pictured As The Great Shepherd of the Sheep:** The Messianic prophet Isaiah said that Jesus would, “Feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young” (Isa. 40:11). Jesus spoke of Himself as a Shepherd in John 10:9-15, noting that, as the Shepherd, He knows His sheep, guides them, feeds them, and would lay down His life for them. Jesus is truly the “Chief Shepherd” of His sheep (1 Pet. 5:4). See Jesus as the great shepherd of the sheep!

**He Is Pictured As The Lamb of God:** Though Jesus is the Shepherd of the sheep, He is also pictured as the Lamb of God. John, in the Revelation, recorded these words, “For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters” (Rev. 7:17). As a prophet of God, John the baptist saw Jesus in this way: “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world’” (Jn. 1:29). Jesus is the Lamb of God whose blood was shed that our sins might be taken away. See Jesus as the precious lamb of God!

**He Is Pictured As The King of Kings:** The angel told Mary the child she would bear, “Will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David” (Lk. 1:32). Jesus Himself attested to this fact when Pilate asked if He was “a king.” Jesus responded, “You say rightly that I am a King” (Jn. 18:37). Jesus has been given “all authority...in heaven and on earth” (Matt. 28:18). Therefore, “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow” (Phil. 2:10). Jesus is the “King of kings” (1 Tim. 6:15). See Jesus as the King of kings and Lord of lords!

**He Is Pictured As The Righteous Judge:** Paul wrote of Jesus as “the righteous Judge” (2 Tim. 4:8). Jesus will one day execute Judgment as the Father has committed all Judgment of Him (Jn. 5:22). He will judge using the standard of His word (Jn. 12:48). No one will escape this Judgment, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27). See Jesus as the righteous Judge to whom we must give account!

**He Is Pictured As The Friend of Mankind:** Jesus identified Himself as a friend by stating, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (Jn. 15:13). The evidence of this friend found in Jesus is seen in His sacrifice. Have you shown yourself friendly to the greatest friend you could ever know? Jesus tells you the way to do so. He said, “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you” (Jn. 15:14). See Jesus as the greatest friend mankind has ever known!

Seeing Jesus, what will you do? May you listen to His voice, find salvation through His sacrifice, submit to Him as your King, prepare for His righteous Judgment, and be His friend as you obey Him!-

## DUTY LIST...

### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Jesse Adams  
Reading: Proverbs 26:17-28
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Jason Hubbard
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....Kenny Johnson
  - Serve.....Michael Pickford
  - Serve.....Rusty Barnes
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

### SUNDAY EVENING

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

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- 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!***