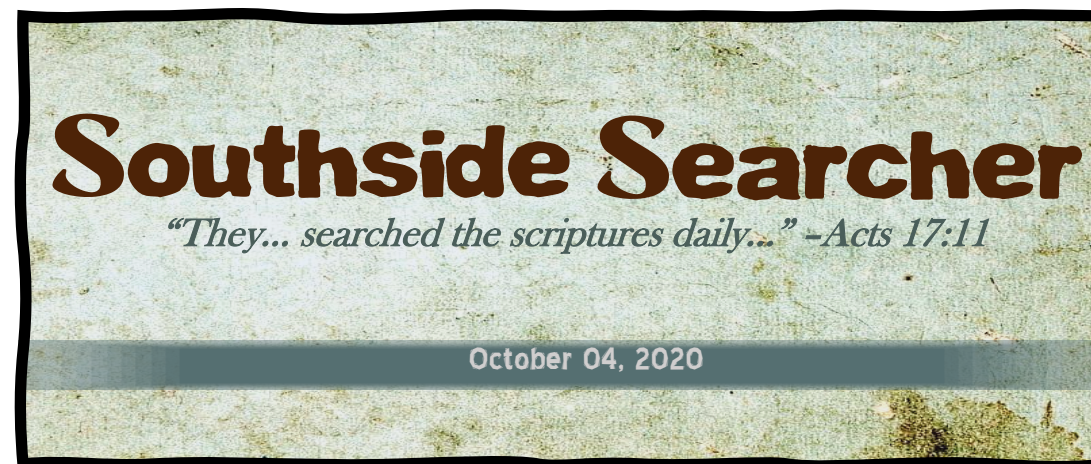


<p>DUTY LIST...</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford ➤ Scripture Reading...Eli Todd Reading: Romans 16:16-19 ➤ Song Leader.....Michael Pickford ➤ Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell ➤ Lord's Table: Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....Eli Todd Serve..... ➤ Closing Prayer..... <p>SUNDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Song Leader.....Kenny Todd ➤ Lord's Supper.....Mike P. / Eli T. <p>WEDNESDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Invitation..... 	<p style="text-align: center;">God's Plan of Salvation</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Hear the Gospel:</u> Romans 10:17 ➤ <u>Believe:</u> Mark 16:16; John 8:24 ➤ <u>Repent of Sin:</u> Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30 ➤ <u>Confess Faith:</u> Romans 10:9, 10 ➤ <u>Be Baptized:</u> Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21 ➤ <u>Remain Faithful:</u> Rev. 2:10 <p style="text-align: center;">Obey Today!</p>
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God Speaks To Us, But How?

“GOD, WHO AT VARIOUS TIMES and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Studying the Old Testament reveals to us the validity of the statement above. God spoke to His people in Old Testament times through dreams, visions, and even through a donkey on one occasion. But the passage also emphasizes that God no longer uses those means of communication to us who are living in *“These last days.”*

So, how does God communicate with us today? He does so through His Son. He does not communicate through Christ through dreams, visions, or modern-day prophecies as some claim. He communicates with us through Christ's word, the Gospel, the New Testament, which is complete and thoroughly equips us with all the knowledge we need to be pleasing to God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). When Jesus left the earth, He sent the Holy Spirit to guide the Apostles into “All” truth (John 16:13). They revealed to us all the truth delivered to them and it was recorded in the New Testament (2 Peter 1:3; Jude 1:3). If they revealed ALL truth in the first century, it follows that there is no truth left to reveal to man today.

God is speaking to us through the Gospel, the New Testament. Are you listening?

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Our evangelist, Michael Pickford is the editor of this publication.

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Southside Searcher, Volume 16, Number 28

The Flip Side

THOSE WHO REMEMBER VINYL records can remember there were two sides to each record. One side had the “Good song” (The Hit) on it and the other side usually had a “Bad (unknown, lesser quality) song” on it. The side with the “Bad song” became known as “The flip side.” Let’s learn some spiritual lessons regarding concepts that possess both good and bad....

The Flip Side of Words. Words can be both good and bad. God insists they be good. James condemned the hypocritical tongue when he wrote, “*Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so*” (James 3:10). We speak well of a person (a brother?) to his face, and then speak ill of him to someone else. James condemned the bad side. We must maintain good speech while discarding the bad. Gossip, slander, whisperings, backbitings: These do not become the child of God (Romans 1:29-30). Paul discussed both sides in Ephesians 4:21-32. Let us replace bitterness, anger, clamor, and evil speaking with kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness. Remember, your words will either justify or condemn you (Matthew 12:37).

The Flip Side of Wealth. Money is spiritually neutral. It is neither good nor evil. Wealth can be used for great things. The wealthy must use their wealth for good (1 Timothy 6:17-19). Wealth provides them with extra responsibilities to be rich in good works. One who “*Has this world’s goods*” is obligated to use his possessions to help those who are in need, especially brethren (1 John 3:16-18). Possessing wealth also increases their ability to give more to the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). The “Flip side” of wealth is alarming. One can love his wealth too much, erroneously putting his confidence in it rather than in God (1 Timothy 6:17-19). Wealth can lead one away from a sense of dependence upon God. Wealth also gives one easier access to various vices. The flip side of wealth is so powerful that few wealthy people will make it to heaven (Matthew 19:23-24).

The Flip Side of Wars. Fighting, contentions, and arguments are good when defending the truth (Acts 15:2; Jude 3). But on the flip side they are condemned when it comes to opinions and useless things (1 Tim. 6:4-5; 2 Timothy 2:23).

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Why I Attend All The Services

SUNDAY MORNING ATTENDANCE IS higher than Sunday and Wednesday evenings in many local churches. This is often because some members refuse to attend except on Sunday mornings. Here’s why I attend all the services...

1) I’m the preacher. Some may be thinking, “Mike, you have to be here, you’re the preacher.” Why does that make me more obligated to attend than any other member? Is there a passage of scripture that teaches such? Is it because of my influence? What about the influence of other members? They have non-Christian friends who know they are members. These friends often know we meet Sunday and Wednesday evenings. What message do you send them when they know you aren’t attending all the services? Does your absence adorn the doctrine of God in their eyes? (1 Timothy 6:1; Titus 2:10).

2) God is Worthy of My Worship. God created me and is the very reason I am alive today (Acts 17:25, 28). If I’m alive and breathing during an evening service, why should I not meet with the saints and praise His holy name?

3) Because I Love My Brethren and Want Them To Grow Stronger. My absence would discourage my brethren in Christ. If I’m absent and they learn I could have been present but chose rather to stay home and watch TV, go bowling, etc., this would discourage them. Why would I want to be a source of discouragement to my brethren when instead I could attend and contribute to their spiritual growth? Why would I want to miss an opportunity to teach and admonish them? (Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 3:12-13). My presence stimulates my brethren to good works (Hebrews 10:24-25). I don’t want to miss an opportunity to do that.

4) Because I Want to Grow in Knowledge. My presence helps me grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18). God set up in the church preachers AND teachers to help me grow in knowledge (Ephesians 4:11ff). Teachers sacrifice time to prepare to teach me God’s word. Why would I want to discourage them with my absence, and rob myself of an opportunity to grow through their teachings?

5) Because There is Nothing Better I Could Be Doing With My Time. Can you think of anything better I could be doing with my time than gathering with the saints and worshipping God? The Psalmist rejoiced when it was time to go up to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122:1). I don’t know why some choose to be absent from Bible classes and certain worship services; but if we could compile a list, would the items on that list be more important and of greater value than gathering with the saints?

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