

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell
Reading: TBA
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Eli Todd
Serve.....
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

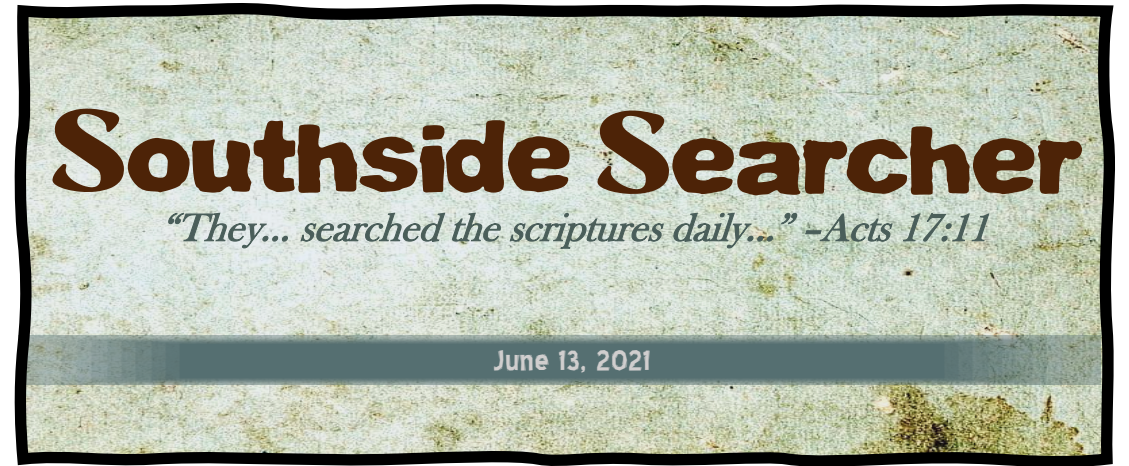
- Song Leader..... Kenny Johnson
- Opening Prayer.... Eli Todd
- Invitation..... Kenny Todd
- Lord's Supper.....Mike P. / Eli T.
- Closing Prayer..... Michael Pickford
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God's Plan of Salvation

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; Acts 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!



Imposters!

When I worked in the fast-food management business, one rule we followed diligently was to check the ID of anyone before letting them behind the counter. For example, if a man came in claiming to be the Health Department Inspector, we would ask for his ID before letting him come to the back of the store.

Restaurants have been robbed and people have been harmed or killed by those claiming to be who they are not.

What about imposters in religion? There are many “religious leaders” today claiming to be men of God when they are actually wolves in sheep’s clothing (Matthew 7:15).

Sadly, many unsuspecting people are letting these imposters right through the door of their souls. As a result, many are going to spend eternity in hell for being misled into error.

If someone comes to you claiming to be a man of God, check his ID, that is, test his teaching with God’s word (Acts 17:11). “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). If he proves to be teaching the truth, let him in. If his teaching contradicts God’s word, kick him out, he’s an imposter!

-Michael Pickford
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We would love to have you visit with us. Our meeting times are:

SUNDAYS: 9 & 10 AM & 6 PM / WEDNESDAYS: 7 PM

We have capable Bible teachers who would be delighted to study with you at your request and convenience.

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

Please visit our website at www.defendthegospel.com

Bible Correspondance Courses Available At Your Request.

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The Road To Apostasy

The “Road to Apostasy” is laid with well-meaning, but unauthorized bricks. Apostasy is “the abandonment of one’s faith or religion.” It most usually happens on the individual level, but there are local bodies of God’s people who have, over the years, apostatized collectively. No one that I know sets out to abandon their faith. It occurs slowly, over-time, and to those not carefully watching, undetected until it is too late. There are signs one is on the “Road to Apostasy.” May we learn to recognize them early and rapidly exit. One is on the “Road to Apostasy” when...

1) He Disrespects The Authority Of God’s Word. Jesus declared “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matt. 28:18). If Christ has all power, or authority, we have none. This is why the apostle penned “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Col. 3:17). When one decides to do things his way, not seeking authorization from God’s Word, he is well on his way down the “Road to Apostasy.”

2) He Is Drawn Away. Paul warned about this very thing in Acts 20:30 when saying “Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” When one allows himself to be “drawn away of his own lust” (Jam. 1:14), he is a step away from apostasy.

3) He Changes God’s Set-Up For Organization. God declares the need for “elders in every church” (Acts 14:23). These men are to meet the standards set in I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. God also affirms the need for deacons to serve the local body (I Tim. 3:8-13). When some, like Jeroboam of old (I Kings 13:26-33) change God’s set-up, apostasy is just around the corner. May we learn to appreciate and put into place God’s way of organization, leaving our ways behind.

4) He Speaks Where The Bible Is Silent. “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God” (I Pet. 4:11). From this may we realize, the silence of God is prohibitive, not permissive. Early leaders made a plea to the silence of God in Acts 15:24. Nadab and Abihu paid with their lives for abusing the silence of God (Lev. 10:1-2). May we not do the same.

5) He Agrees To Disagree. Contrarily, God’s Word calls us to “speak the same thing” (I Cor. 1:10). When it comes to doctrinal matters, there is no room to “agree to disagree.” We are commanded to abide in “the doctrine of Christ” (II Jn. 9). Agreeing to disagree demonstrates a man’s unwillingness to study (II Tim. 2:15) and lack of love for mens’ souls (Rev. 3:19).

6) He Admits Worldliness Into His Life. James admonishes a man must “keep himself unspotted from the world” (Jam. 1:27). One’s faith is threatened when this occurs, so do not let it in! Always remember, once worldliness is granted admission, it is very difficult to evict it! Don't fall in love with the world.

-Larry R. Ping II

Some Who Marveled

No doubt, at some point in your life, you have marveled. The idea here is "to be surprised; to be amazed; to be astonished." This disposition is not unique to us. Many in the Bible marveled. Think about these.

Jesus Marveled At The Centurion's Faith. When Jesus said, "I will come and heal" the centurion's servant, the centurion uttered, "Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed"(Matt. 8:7-8). It was at this the Lord was astonished and said, "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel" (Matt. 8:10). We ought to mimic the faith of this individual in not only the Lord, but His Word, and the power encased therein!

Pilate Marveled At The Lord. When Jesus "stood before the governor" (Matt. 27:11), He had precious little to say in response to the allegations being made. Pilate took notice of this, and the Bible iterates Jesus "answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly" (Matt. 27:14). Sometimes, people are amazed at what we might say. However, they may take greater notice when we refuse to engage in useless banter. Learn to know when to and when not to say something!

Jesus Marveled At The Unbelief Of His Fellow Townsfolk. The people of Nazareth were little impressed with the "carpenter" who had returned "to teach in the synagogue" (Mk. 6:2-3). The Son of God famously replied, "A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house" (Mk. 6:4). Jesus "marvelled because of their unbelief" (Mk. 6:6). There may come a time in our life when we are surprised when others refuse to believe when presented with God's powerful Word (Rom. 1:16). If so, continue to search for others who might.

The Jewish Leaders Marveled At Peter And John. These two men of faith gained an opportunity to preach the Gospel. They defended the healing of an impotent man (Acts 4:9). They proclaimed the power of the crucified Jesus (Acts 4:10). They referenced the Psalms in connection to Jesus being the chief cornerstone (Acts 4:11). They affirmed salvation is found in none other than Christ (Acts 4:12). The Jewish leaders perceived the boldness of Peter and John and "marvelled" (Acts 4:13). In time, others will be astonished you courageously teach God's Word. Perhaps enough so to inquire as to their need for obedience. May it be so!

Paul Marveled At The Galatians Quick Retreat From The Gospel. In fact, he opened with this topic in his letter to them by saying, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel" (Gal. 1:6). Paul was greatly disappointed in these brethren for shrinking away from the Gospel they had been taught. If we have been taught the Word of God and obeyed it, may we have the steadfastness to stay with it (I Cor. 15:58). If we have taught others the Bible and they have obeyed it, may we help erect a solid foundation upon which they can stand (Matt. 28:18-20). It should be an astonishing thing to see one obey the Truth and backslide from it (II Pet. 2:21-22). May it never be so of us!

-Larry R. Ping II