DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- > Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Eli Todd Reading: TBA
- > Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- ➤ Opening Prayer......Jeff Isbell
- ➤ Lord's Table:

Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve......Eli Todd

Serve.....

Closing Prayer......Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- > Song Leader..... Kenny Todd
- ➤ Opening Prayer.... Michael Pickford
- > Invitation..... Michael Pickford
- ➤ Lord's Supper.....Mike P. / Eli T.
- ➤ Closing Prayer..... Kenny Johnson

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.

- ➤ <u>Hear the Gospel</u>: Romans 10:17
- ➤ <u>Believe</u>: 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!

www.defendthegospel.com

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.

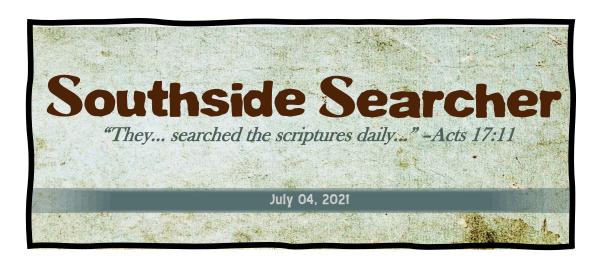
Our evangelist, Michael Pickford is the editor of this publication.

Please visit our website at www.defendthegospel.com

Bible Correspondance Courses Available At Your Request.



1167 South Lowry Street, Smyrna, TN 37167 | 615-459-7854 Southside Searcher, Volume 17, Number 27



Be A Great Servant!

THE GREATEST SERVICE you can ever perform for another is to teach them the Gospel of Christ. Many Great and generous philanthropists have fed countless hungry mouths through their riches and generosity. Great doctors have healed many serious illnesses. Great ophthalmologists have restored sight to many blind or mostly blind individuals. But the greatest acts have resulted in the spiritually blind being healed, the spiritually sick being restored, and the spiritually hungry being filled.

"The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them." -Matthew 11:5

One commentator suggested that the things listed in the above verse work from the least important to the most important accomplishments. From blindness to crippled to deafness to healing to being raised to hearing the gospel. Jesus did some wondrous things while walking the earth, culminating in the most wondrous thing of all – preaching the Gospel.

The Gospel is God's power unto salvation, let us not be silent! (Romans 1:16).

Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

Minister, Evangelist

I was recently asked a question about the used of the words "evangelist" and "minister" in reference to a preacher. Are they the same thing? Let's consult scripture.

The words minister and evangelist are obviously two different words with two different meanings. But due to the nature of the definition of the word minister, it can refer to several different things. The word is found several times in the New Testament. Simply put, a minister is one who is a servant. There is a sense in which we are all ministers of one another (1 Peter 4:10), the government is a "minister" to its citizens (Romans 13:4), angels are ministers to the saints (Hebrews 1:14), and deacons (same Greek word as for minister) serve in an official capacity in the local church (1 Timothy 3:8-13). We can minister to the sick, those in prison, etc. One can even be a minister of sin (Galatians 2:17).

As you can see, the context determines the usage of the word minister. There are contexts in which the Greek word for minister is used in reference to the work of an evangelist (Gospel preacher). But first, let's explore the word evangelist. The Greek word for "Gospel" is transliterated *Euaggelion* and is defined simply as, "Good news." The Greek word for "Evangelist" is *Euaggelistes* and is defined, "A preacher of the Gospel – Gospel preacher." Look at the word for "Gospel" and the word for "evangelist." They are almost identical. So, we read about "Philip the evangelist" (Acts 21:8). He was a Gospel preacher.

Now, remember that the Greek word for "minister" means servant and can refer to several different types of servanthood as we noted in the second paragraph above. Now we will note that the word can also refer to the service performed by an evangelist. We are familiar with Paul telling Timothy to "do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." Timothy's "ministry" in this case would be his service as an evangelist. When he preaches the word, he is ministering spiritual things to his listeners. He is therefore acting as a minister (servant). But further, in 1 Timothy chapter 4, Paul was giving Timothy specific instructions to follow as a gospel preacher. He wrote in verse 6, "If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ." In this instance the word "minister" refers to a Gospel preacher (Timothy specifically).

As a recap, an evangelist is, by definition, a Gospel preacher, and it is scriptural to refer to him as a minister, a minister of the Gospel.

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

Problems With The Bible

I'm not speaking about problems within the Bible itself. I'm talking about problems people have with the word of God. Among men, there's a problem with....

Subtraction. There are some who want to subtract many things from God's word. Baptism, for example. The Lord said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). I once heard a story about a woman who told the preacher that Mark 16:16 wasn't in her Bible. When he looked, sure enough, she had literally taken scissors and cut it out of her Bible. Most do not literally clip it out, but they subtract it nevertheless, because they refuse to accept it as truth. "If anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the book of life..." (Revelation 22:19). Beware of those who subtract things from God's word!

Supplementation. There are many who are not satisfied with the truths God has recorded in His book – the Bible. So, they add to it. They supplement it. For example, The New Testament commands Christians to sing in their worship services. Music in churches is to be spoken, not played on mechanical instruments. "**Speaking** to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Ephesians 5:19). It took almost one thousand years after the Lord built His church for the Catholic church to add the organ, and most protestant denominations did not have them in their beginnings, but they too eventually supplemented God's word with the mechanical instruments. The wise man wrote long ago, "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:5-6). When one supplements God's word, he is showing that he really doesn't trust in God.

Separation. We must handle aright the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Many fail to understand the basic distinction between the Old and New Testaments, not separating the two. It is wrong to appeal to the Old Testament for religious authority. It has much to teach us about obedience and disobedience, but when it comes to it being an authority in religion, it has become "*Obsolete*" and has passed away (Hebrews 8:13). The Old Testament was a specific covenant between God and the physical nation of Israel. The New Testament is what God has given us for obedience to Him (2 John 9).

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net