DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- > Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell Reading:
- > Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- ➤ Opening Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- ➤ Lord's Table:

Lead.....Eli Todd Serve.....Mike Pickford

Serve......Kenny Johnson

Closing Prayer......Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- ➤ Song Leader..... Kenny Johnson
- Opening Prayer.... Eli Todd
- > Preaching..... Michael Pickford
- ➤ Lord's Supper.....Kenny Johnson
- Closing Prayer..... Mike Pickford

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- ➤ Song Leader... Kenny Johnson
- > Invitation......Kenny Todd

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
- ➤ <u>Be Baptized</u>: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- ➤ Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

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.

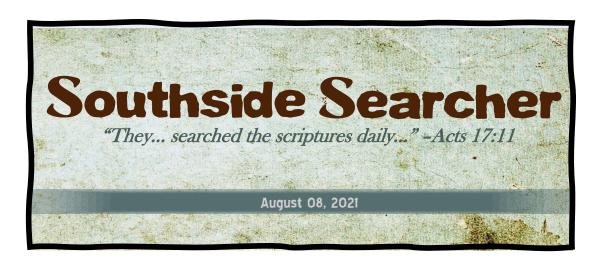
Our evangelist, Michael Pickford is the editor of this publication.

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 32 www.defendthegospel.com



Thank God For Ice Cream!

IT'S INTERESTING AND COMMENDABLE how a group of Christians will meet at a restaurant for a meal and thank God in prayer before they eat (1 Timothy 4:4-5). Yet on another occasion, the same people will meet up at an ice cream place, get their ice cream, and dig right in with no prayer. I have been guilty of this myself.

Maybe we all need a reminder to be thankful for the little things in life. It's easy to thank God for that new job, the new house, the new car. It's easy to thank Him for a good report from the doctor, for our children, etc. But are we taking other things for granted?

When was the last time you thanked God for the air you breathe, the rain, the sunshine? The Bible teaches us that in God we live and move and have our very being (Acts 17:28). He holds our next breath in His hand and owns ALL our ways (Daniel 5:23). Many passages encourage us to pray, and most of them exhort us to include thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, etc.).

Remember, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17). So, while you're thanking God for the "Big" Blessings, don't forget the ice cream.

Michael Pickford *Mpickford3@comcast.net*

Man-Made Creeds

MANY MAN-MADE CREED BOOKS exist among us today. They are not generally brought into the pulpit; but they are found in the offices of the different denominations' ministers. The concepts in them are studied and then implemented into the sermons. To teach anything contrary to these creeds could bring rebuke, discipline, and even sanction.

I wonder about the very existence of these Creed Books. I once heard a man say regarding man-made creed books, "If they say less than the Bible, they say too little; if they say more than the Bible, they say too much; and if they say the same thing as the Bible, there's no need, we have the Bible!" Amen! This is a biblically accurate concept. Paul wrote, "All Scripture in given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

If I need doctrine, I don't need man-made creeds. Scripture provides all I need to be complete. The same is true for discipline. I don't need the man-made disciplines, or catechisms, etc. I can be a complete man of God with Scripture alone.

Those who go beyond the doctrine of Christ lose their fellowship with God, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ, does not have God..." (2 John 9). God wants us to worship and serve Him according to what He has revealed in His word, not according to man-made doctrines derived from the wisdom of man. Jesus condemned the religious elite of His day for "Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9).

Man-made creed books distort God's wisdom by either adding to or taking away from His words, or both.

"Every word of God is pure...Do not add to His words. Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:5-6).

"Indeed let God be true but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

Loving Each Other

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

-John 13:34-35

"If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"

-1 John 4:20

"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

-1 Peter 4:8

"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another"

-Romans 12:10

"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law."

-Romans 13:8

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

-1 John 3:18

"But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

-1 John 3:17

"with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love," -Ephesians 4:2

"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,"

-1 Peter 1:22

"But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;"

-1 Thessalonians 4:9

"Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins." -Proverbs 10:12

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

-John 15:12-13

"Let brotherly love continue."

-Hebrews 13:1