DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- > Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford Reading: Psalm 145:1-9
- ➤ Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- ➤ Lord's Table:

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

Closing Prayer......Jeff Isbell

SUNDAY EVENING

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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!

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

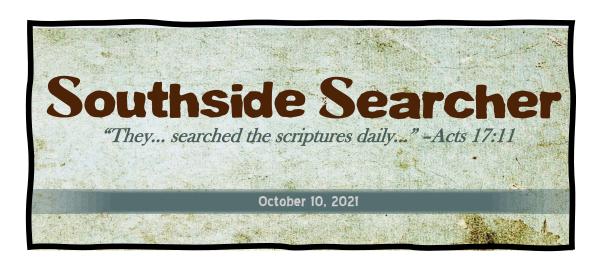
Bible Correspondance Courses Available At Your Request.

SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1167 South Lowry Street, Smyrna, TN 37167 | 615-459-7854 Southside Searcher, Volume 17, Number 37



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Foresight

"A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished." - Proverbs 22:3

I KEEP MYSELF AWARE OF the forecasts so as to be able to lead my family to shelter and safety should threatening weather present itself. Not being prudent in these matters has cost many people their lives. To be prudent simply means to have foresight, to be circumspect. In fact, Christians are told to "Walk circumspectly" (Ephesians 5:15); that is, walk "Carefully." It literally means to walk forward in a circular fashion.

If you were trying to make it through the forest, and someone had told you there was a lion out there who wanted you for dinner, you'd probably press forward while constantly looking around and behind you for any signs of that lion!

Well, our adversary, the devil, is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). So, Peter said, "Be vigilant" (watchful). "A prudent man foresees evil." God's word gives us many warnings about various sins — where they can lead, what they can cost us. Let us see picture in our minds the final result(s) of any sin before we give in to temptation.

This admonition applies to all walks of life regarding any evil thing. Let's not walk the line, let's not see how close we can get to sin without actually "Sinning." "Be wise in what is good, and innocent concerning evil" (Romans 16:19).

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

Misunderstanding God's Word

IT'S ONE THING TO FAIL to understand something in God's word. But it's another thing to misunderstand God's word. That is, to get something out of it that isn't taught there. It's a dangerous thing to understand God's word improperly—to err concerning the scriptures (Matthew 22:29)—to twist something out of it that isn't there (2 Peter 3:16). There is a gross misunderstanding of God's word in religion today. Here are some reasons why...

Improper Leadership. I am speaking of those who are teachers of the word of God; whether it's the preacher, the Bible class teacher, an elder or a deacon, a televangelist, a college professor, etc. Millions of people misunderstand the word of God because of the teachers they respect and listen to. False teachers have always been around (2 Peter 2:1-3) and they are abundant in our day and time. Those who distort the Gospel will be accursed regardless of how educated they are, how popular they are, how nice they are, how good-looking they are, how quick-witted they are, how well they speak, or how much "Good" they do (Galatians 1:6-9; Romans 16:17-18). We must test all religious teaching to assure it accords with the Gospel (1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11) ...

<u>Inappropriate Loyalty</u>. Some misunderstand God's word because their loyalty lies somewhere else. If we truly want to understand God's word, we must approach it with an attitude that says, "Regardless of what this says, I'm going to do it because I want to do God's will" (John 7:17). To properly understand God's word, one must be willing to do God's will. But many would rather do the will of the family religion (Galatians 1:14). They cry, "If it was good enough for my parents and grandparents then it's good enough for me." Some are more loyal to their favorite preacher, or to their favorite sins. When they read where the Bible condemns a practice of theirs, they look for an "Alternate" understanding of that passage...

<u>Inexcusable Laziness</u>. To be frank, some people are just too lazy, or too preoccupied with other endeavors (whether good or bad) to really sit down and regularly study the word of God. Some passages are difficult and require serious mental labor (2 Peter 3:16). Do the work or you'll be "*Led away with the error of the wicked*" (2 Peter 3:17). Study daily (Acts 17:11).

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

Discerning Good From Evil

"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

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

-Romans 12:2

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."
-Romans 12:9

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

-Isaiah 5:20

"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

-Hebrews 5:12-14

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

-James 1:5

"Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."
-1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ."

-Philippians 1:9-10

"finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."

-Ephesians 5:10-11

"Yes, if you cry out for discernment,
And lift up your voice for understanding,
If you seek her as silver,
And search for her as for hidden treasures;
Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,
And find the knowledge of God."
-Proverbs 2:3-5