DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

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

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer...Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table...K, Todd, M. Pickford
- 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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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.

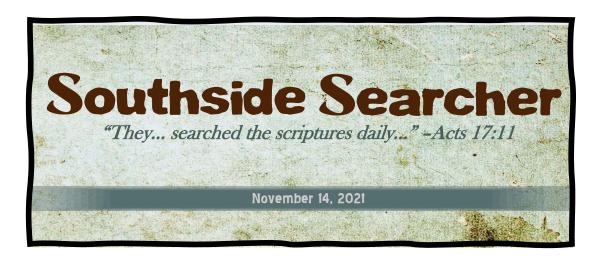
Our evangelist, Michael Pickford is the editor of this publication.

Please visit our website at www.defendthegospel.com

Bible Correspondance Courses Available At Your Request.



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A Proud Look

PRIDE TO A certain degree, or a positive type of pride may be key to maintaining dignity and a sense of self-respect. We are proud of our children when they do well. We are proud of our spouses when they succeed. And we should tell them so.

But self-arrogance and pride are to be avoided. So says God. "*These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look.*" (Proverbs 6:16-17a).

That arrogant disposition. Those haughty eyes. We all know someone who is full of themselves, and it turns us off. But God loathes it.

Conceit is Satan's gift to little men. And pride is the basis of most great mistakes. Arrogance builds obstacles on the path to learning and growing as we should. If my pride convinces me that I already know everything, how can I learn anything new? How can I succeed? How can I achieve true contentment?

God has never been silent about his disdain for arrogance and pride. "The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, him I will not endure" (Psalm 101:5b). "A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin" (Proverbs 21:4).

Let us pray that we will be sensitive to any pride we might be harboring in our hearts. Pray for a humble disposition and a grateful heart that we may grow in God's good graces. Let us place others above ourselves, winning their favor.

What trait can I develop to overcome an arrogant disposition? (James 4:10). How does a grateful heart aid in dispelling a prideful spirit?

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

Churches Gone Wild

I HAVE HEARD of shows like "Girls Gone Wild" (Do not watch!), "Gardening Gone Wild," "Rednecks Gone Wild," and "Jellyfish Gone Wild." "Gone wild" carries the idea of being reckless, carefree, acting in an illicit (unlawful), uncontrolled manner. With this view in mind, I think it can certainly be said that there are some local churches that have "Gone Wild." They have gone wild with their......

Erroneous Preaching. It has been said that a local church is as faithful as the preaching it demands. If they allow their preacher(s) to preach error; if they put up with it because he is "Such a good speaker" and "So knowledgeable and sound on other issues," then they are destined for disaster. Paul represented such men as being Satan's ministers disguised as "Ministers of righteousness" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). If they are tolerated, rather than marked and avoided, they will deceive the hearts of the simple (Romans 16:17-18). I've heard stories of elders hiring preachers whom they knew to teach error on certain issues because they were so talented and sound on other issues. And we have seen many such churches led subtly away from the narrow path of truth.

Entertaining Pursuits. So-called "Faithful churches" are more and more catering to the downgrade tendencies of our society to be constantly entertained. We're told that children can't be properly taught unless it is done with entertainment and fun. So many churches have transformed their VBSs into food and games with the Bible left over in the corner with the cobwebs. These children come away from such gatherings with makeup on their faces and food in their belly, but with no further knowledge of the precious word of God. They speak of the good times they had but can't quote a single scripture or tell a single bible story. Shameful! There was a time when the church of Christ had the reputation of being a church that respectfully studied the word of God, but it's now being viewed by many as a place to play. Do not be deceived, "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17).

Extralegal Practices. Instead of offering authority from Christ for all they do (Colossians 3:17), many churches seem to be seeking ways to transgress the doctrine of Christ with reckless abandon. Frightening!

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

Pride/Arrogance

"Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the Lord is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed."

-1 Samuel 2:3

"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."

-Romans 12:3

"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate."

-Proverbs 8:13

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise."

-Proverbs 12:15

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

-Philippians 2:3

"Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished."

-Proverbs 16:5

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;"

-1 Corinthians 13:4

"A proud and haughty man—"Scoffer" is his name; He acts with arrogant pride."
-Proverbs 21:24

"Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion."

-Romans 12:16

"Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor is humility."
-Proverbs 18:12

"When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom." -Proverbs 11:2

"A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor." -Proverbs 29:23

"Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

-1 Peter 5:5