DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- > Announcements.....Kenny Todd
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson Reading: TBA
- ➤ Song Leader.....Eli Todd
- ➤ Opening Prayer......Robert Johnson
- ➤ Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Todd Serve.....Eli Todd
- Closing Prayer......Lynn Buttrey

SUNDAY EVENING

- ➤ Song Leader....Eli Todd
- Opening Prayer...Jeff Isbell
- Invitation: Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table...E. Todd, K. Todd
- Closing Prayer....Kenny Johnson

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!

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.

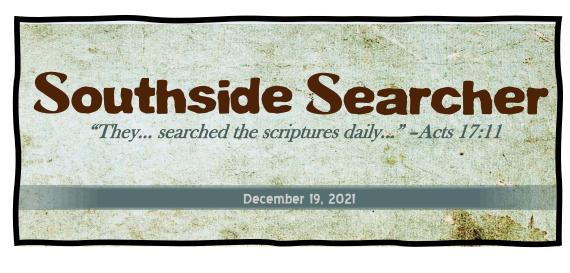
Our evangelist, Michael Pickford is the editor of this publication.

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 47



Fitting In

FOLKS LIKE TO "Fit in." They want to be accepted. They don't enjoy feeling like an outsider. Perhaps there's a healthy measure to this desire, but all too often people get themselves into trouble by trying to "Fit in" with the wrong crowd. Young people experiment with smoking, drinking, and drugs so they will "Fit in."

"You shall not follow a multitude to do evil" (Exodus 23:2).

Similar admonitions are given to Christians in the New Testament, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

But we should want to "Fit in" in the church. We should feel comfortable being around other Christians and enjoying spiritual blessings. It should be a pleasure to serve God. We should seek friends who are Christians and have good clean fun. But to "Fit in" in Christ we must first GET in Christ. In Christ is the only place where salvation is located (2 Timothy 2:10). We are told how to get in Christ, "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27). Are you living in such a way as to "Fit in" in the kingdom?

-Michael Pickford *Mpickford3@comcast.net*

Necessary Division

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1). But "Can two walk together unless they are agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

God certainly desires for all His children to walk together in unity and to enjoy its sweetness. But sadly, unity is not always possible. Jesus Himself taught that He came to bring, not peace, but a sword (Matthew 10:34-39). A sword is used to divide! Is Jesus teaching that it is His desire for folks to be divided? Absolutely not! (John 17:17-21). He's teaching the simple fact that some will accept the truth and others who will not. This will force division, even among the closest relationships (Matt 10:36-37).

God allows us to differ in matters of opinion. In fact, He commands that we get along and dwell in unity regardless of our personal opinions (Romans 14:1-13). But sadly, there are times when brethren choose to believe and teach error. Romans 14 does not apply to these situations. It only applies to "doubtful things" (Romans 14:1).

When someone teaches error and refuses to repent of the error after he has been taught the truth, he is to be divided from those who are adamant about sticking to the truth. The false teachers are to be marked and avoided (Romans 16:17-18). There are good reasons for this. For example, if they are allowed our fellowship, they are apt to convince others of their error, thus causing others to be deceived lose their souls.

I've also observed that those who take erroneous positions are often willing to be in harmony with those who differ with them. When those who want to stick with the Gospel (2 John 9) insist on breaking fellowship with the false teachers (2 John 10), they are represented as impatient troublemakers who are set on causing division among brethren. Sadder still is that souls will be lost over error (Gal 1:6-9; 1 Peter 2:1-3).

Let us strive to stick strictly and boldly to the Gospel. If we'll all do this, we'll enjoy that pleasant unity the Psalmist spoke of.

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

The Birth Of Jesus

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

-Isaiah 9:6

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

-Isaiah 7:14

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

-John 1:1, 14

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

-Micah 5:2

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem."

-Matthew 2:1

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

-Matthew 1:21

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
-Luke 2:11

"And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

-Luke 1:35

"Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

-John 18:37

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,"

-Galatians 4:4