DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

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

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader....Jeff Isbell
- Opening Prayer...Eli Todd
- Invitation: N/A
- 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.

- > Hear the Gospel: Romans 10:17
- ➤ Believe: 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.

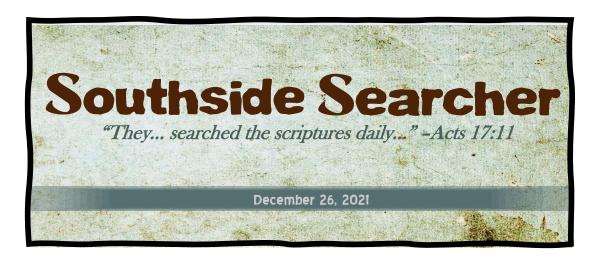
Our evangelist, Michael Pickford is the editor of this publication.

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 48



Resolutions

MOST PEOPLE MAKE resolutions at the beginning of a new year. They want to better themselves. Some resolve to quit smoking, or drinking, or to lose some weight. A resolution is a firm decision with a commitment to accomplish it. People boast of their resolutions, and then forget them within a few days or weeks.

Becoming a Christian involves many resolutions. Below is a non-exhaustive list of imperative resolutions. May we all resolve to keep them steady in our lives.

- Study God's word daily (Acts 17:11)
- Pray regularly (1 Thess. 5:17)
- Be faithful to God (Rev. 2:10)
- Attend all scheduled services faithfully (Heb. 10:25)
- Be hospitable (Rom 12:13)
- Forgive others (Eph 4:32)
- Love your enemies (Matt. 5:44)
- Contribute more (2 Cor. 9:6,7)
- Share your faith with others (Heb. 5:12)
- Be more charitable (Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 20:35)
- Be more encouraging to your brethren (Hebrews 3:12-13)
- Rejoice more (Philippians 4:4)
- And especially if you are not yet a Christian...Obey the Gospel! (Heb. 5:8, 9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

Thinking Outside The Box

A popular phrase today is an exhortation for folks to "Think outside the box." In other words, think outside the norm, the obvious. Be creative. Don't just go with the flow. Try to improve the system. Perhaps this is good advice in many areas of life, but it is deadly advice when it comes to God's word.

Paul wrote, "Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written..." (1 Corinthians 4:6). Sadly, there are those who like to get creative with God's word. That is, they take liberties with it; they add and subtract. They teach things not revealed in scripture. They bind man-made laws and traditions. They pervert, twist, and otherwise completely abuse the word and will of God. In speaking of Paul's epistles and other Scriptures, Peter said "In which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction..." (2 Peter 3:16). If we may view the Bible as God's box, they are definitely thinking outside the box.

The apostle Paul commanded folks not to think beyond what is written. False teachers have always existed, and they always will (1 Peter 2:1-4). God placed a strong condemnation upon those who teach religious error. They are accursed (Galatians 1:6-9). They are to be marked and avoided (Romans 16:17-18). They will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:16). They will lose their place in the book of life and be cursed (Revelation 22:18-19). And they will not be recognized as faithful Christians on judgment day (Matthew 7:21-23). The list goes on.

When it comes to God's word, God forcefully says, don't think outside the box! "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Peter 4:11).

Regardless of how pretty or how logical, or how dramatic, or how glorious someone makes religious teaching sound, check it out with God's word (Acts 17:11)! "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). If you test it and find it to be true, believe it and obey it; if it's false, reject it. Don't be guilty of thinking outside the box of God's Holy word.

-Michael Pickford *Mpickford3@comcast.net*

Anger

"He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly."
-Proverbs 14:29

"Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,"
-Ephesians 4:26

"Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools."
-Ecclesiastes 7:9

"So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

-James 1:19-20

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice."

-Ephesians 4:31

"The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression."

-Proverbs 19:11

"But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth."

-Colossians 3:8

"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."

-Proverbs 16:32

"But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."

-Matthew 5:22

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy."
-Psalm 103:8

"A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of wicked intentions is hated."
-Proverbs 14:17

"An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression."
-Proverbs 29:22

"Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go, Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul."

-Proverbs 22:24-25