### DUTY LIST...

### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- > Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford Reading: TBA
- > Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- ➤ Opening Prayer......TBA
- ➤ Lord's Table:
  - Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve......Eli Todd
- Closing Prayer......TBA

### **SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer...Michael Pickford
- Invitation: Michael Pickford
- Closing Prayer: TBA

## 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.

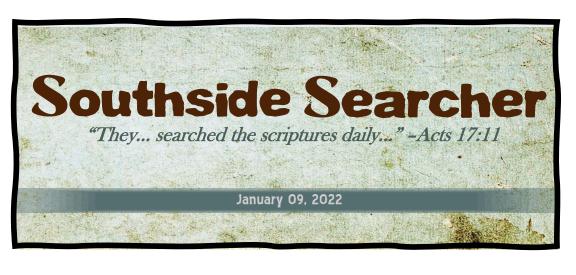
Our evangelist, Michael Pickford is the editor of this publication.

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 18, Number 02



# He Said "We"

"And Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." -Genesis 22:5

Abraham knew why he was going onto that mountain. God had told him to sacrifice his only son Isaac as a burnt offering! (Genesis 22:2). So, why did he say, "we" will come back to you? Was he lying to the young men to hide that he was about to burn his only son to death as a sacrifice to God? I think not. Maybe he was having second thoughts and fully intended to disobey God in this matter. I doubt it.

When Abraham said "we," he displayed the greatest amount of faith I can imagine. You see, Abraham knew—he KNEW— that God intended to make of him a great nation through Isaac. He knew God intended to bless all nations through him via Isaac (Romans 4:13-25). He did not waver in his belief in this promise of God (Romans 4:20). His faith in this was "perfect" (James 2:21-23).

And if God was going to bless all nations through Isaac, then it was necessary for Isaac to continue to live. Abraham knew this too. That's why he said, "we." He didn't know what it was, but He trusted that God had a plan to save his son.

Abraham knew that when God makes a promise, you can KNOW He will keep it regardless of what sacrifices and difficulties He allows you to endure. Read these verses and consider a small sample of some of God's promises: Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:17-19; Matthew 28:20; Joshua 1:9; Revelation 2:10; John 14:1-4.

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

# **Religious Division**

IT'S NO SECRET THAT among those claiming the Christian religion, there is great religious division. Many believe God is behind this division, claiming that Denominationalism is a blessing from God, saying it gives us lots of choices to find a church that fits our own lifestyle. But the various contradictions in doctrine existing among different denominations cause confusion, and God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). The opposite of division is unity, and in the Bible, we see a....

**Strong Desire For Unity**. In John 17:20-23 Jesus prayed four times that His disciples might be one. He strongly desired for them to possess the same unity as He and the Father possessed, "As You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in us..." (Vs 21). Jesus and the Father have no differences in their beliefs, so Jesus isn't praying for unity in diversity. He isn't praying for His disciples to lay aside biblical truths to maintain peace. God Desires that we be unified, but that unity must be based on Truth – His truth (John 17:17).

**Solid Demand For Unity**. There were those in the church at Corinth who were trying to divide up the body in a way very much the same as denominationalism exists today. Some wanted to follow Apollos, some Cephas, some Paul, etc. Paul told them, "Now I Plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). This verse speaks for itself, and Paul would say the same thing to today's proponents of denominationalism; It's a solid demand for unity based on the Gospel.

Scriptural Design For Unity. Ephesians 4:1-6 offers us the key to unity—the kind of unity God desires and demands. Paul wrote in verse 3, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit..." Unity of the Spirit! What did the Spirit do? He revealed the Gospel (1 Corinthians 2:10; John 16:13). So, to have unity of the Spirit is to be unified based upon the product of the Spirit – The Gospel! Again, God wants us unified, but not at the expense of Gospel truths. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

-Michael Pickford Mpickford3@comcast.net

# **Peace (Serenity)**

"I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." -Psalm 4:8

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

-Philippians 4:6-7

"The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

-Numbers 6:26

"I will hear what God the Lord will speak, For He will speak peace, To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly."

-Psalm 85:8

"You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You."

-Isaiah 26:3

"casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

-1 Peter 5:7

"Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; Thereby good will come to you. Receive, please, instruction from His mouth, And lay up His words in your heart."

-Job 22:21-22

"Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble."
-Psalm 119:165

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

-John 14:27

"The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."

-Isaiah 32:17

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

-Matthew 11:28-29