

A NEW MIND

Michael Pickford

In light of the New Year, Let's use this section for a few weeks to remind us of some new things in the Bible.

Paul wrote in Romans 12:2 "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."

Paul isn't saying here that we shouldn't emulate things in the world that are good, or spiritually neutral. It is the evil things of the world that he doesn't want us to conform to.

God told His children long ago "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil" (Exodus 23:2). Just because everyone

else is doing it doesn't make it right. James wrote "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?" (James 4:4).

Instead, we must renew our minds. You are what you eat. If we fill our bodies with garbage our bodies will function poorly. This is true mentally, emotionally and spiritually as well. If we fill our heads with violence and immorality from questionable books, video games, movies and music; we'll become like that. If we fill our minds with God's word, we will renew our minds and become more God-like.

Let's always be on a quest for a new mind in Christ Jesus. 🔍

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

EVERYONE WELCOME!

- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Children's Class, 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5:30 pm
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Michael Pickford

At the first of the year many people choose to do something that will positively affect their lives by cleaning out something bad. Perhaps there some cleaning out we need to do in our own lives.

Heart. Our heart often determines our actions. Jesus said "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness" (Mark 7:21-22). No wonder the Lord said "Blessed are the pure in heart..." (Matthew 5:8). We overcome wicked thoughts by taking control of our thoughts. We should take captive every one of our thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5). We do this, not by trying intentionally to not think about bad things, but by busying our minds with good thoughts so the bad thoughts have no room to grow and ultimately manifest themselves in evil ways. Meditate on pure things (Philippians 4:8).

Home. There are many who need to do some house cleaning. I'm not speaking of picking up debris, dusting, or straightening out furniture. I'm speaking of purging out bitterness and

unkind ways towards our spouses, children and parents. Many family woes can be solved through the application of one verse, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). We may also need to eliminate some unsavory TV programs, movies, music and video games. David said "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set nothing wicked before my eyes..." (Psalm 101:2-3).

Habits. Two of the most popular New Year's resolutions are to quit smoking and to lose weight. Both of these affect the well being of our bodies, and both involve a great amount of self control. While applied to fornication in the context, an overall theme is disclosed in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 where Paul wrote, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." Self control is part of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Peter includes self control as one of the attributes that must be added to our faith (2 Peter 1:5-11). 🔍

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CHECK YOUR TONGUE!

Michael Pickford

For many years doctors would take a close look at the tongue of a patient in order to determine his health. The ability of many doctors to diagnose various illnesses simply by checking the tongue is amazing.

While physicians gauge the health of an individual by the tongue, the great Physician can gauge the health of the soul by the tongue. In relation to how the tongue speaks, Jesus said, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil things" (Matthew 12:35).

Often, we can get a good idea about a man's character by the way he speaks. Our speech is very important. Not only does our tongue reflect the health of our soul, but the health of our soul influences the tongue. And in many ways, our tongue determines our influence among others, and can influence others to good or evil.

Paul spoke often about the proper use of the tongue, and James places a great deal of stress upon controlling

the tongue (Eph. 4:25, 29-32; James 3:1-12).

James made a curious statement in James 3:8. He wrote, "But no man can tame the tongue." Yet Jesus stated that we could be condemned by the very words we speak. If it is impossible to control the tongue, and not doing so can condemn us; is God unjust? Certainly Not! Read it again; James didn't say it was impossible to control the tongue; his point was that no man by his own power can control the tongue. But when we bring ourselves under subjection to Christ and His Gospel, we can, by His Gospel working in us, control our tongue. Paul stated, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

Not only can your corrupted soul defile your tongue, but your tongue can defile your clean soul. Oh, the importance of the tongue! So much so that Jesus stated, "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:37). So, in day to day life, don't forget to check your tongue! 🔍

CHOOSE WISELY!

"A man has three names: A name he inherits, a name his parents give him, and a name he makes for himself." It is imperative that a child of God has a good reputation because it isn't just his name that's affected, the name of the Lord is involved too (1 Timothy 6:1). Reputation is based on character, so we choose our reputation by the type of person we choose to be. Choose wisely! "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches" (Proverbs 22:1).



SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Spiritual Provocation

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Ben Green
Reading: Hebrews 10:19-25
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Brad Todd
Serve.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....Frank Anderson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Brad Todd

Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader..... Robert Johnson
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

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

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**

Obey Today!