

A NEW COMMANDMENT

Michael Pickford

In light of the New Year, we're using this section for a few weeks to remind us of some new things in the Bible.

Jesus said in John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

The commandment of love was not new in that it was never before given, for one of the great commandments of the Old Law was to love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39). John reiterates this command in His first epistle (1 John 2:8-10).

It would be new in that it had been ignored by the religious Jews. In fact,

They had added to the commandment, "and hate your neighbor" (Matthew 5:43).

Their focus was more on appearing pious and earning accolades from their fellow man (Matthew 23:5). They strove to keep the law and their traditions out of duty and obligation rather than out of love. God expects us to keep His commandments today; but He wants it done out of love for Him and for one another. In fact, if we have this type of love, even God's most difficult commandments lose their sense of burden (1 John 5:3). And this love will serve as a badge of our discipleship (John 13:35). 🔍

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

Volume 7, Number 02

January 09, 2011

"ONE VERSE EVANGELISM"

Michael Pickford

I recently saw on a "Church" sign: "One Verse Evangelism, Romans 6:23." I thought about this and came to the conclusion that we could indeed present the Gospel using this one verse as a basis, although I'm certain I would come to some much different conclusions than the folks with the sign. I see in Romans 6:23...

Sin. Paul wrote "For the wages of sin is death." Defined according to scripture, death is separation. The Bible speaks of physical death occurring when the spirit leaves the body (James 2:26). Spiritual death is when sin separates one from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). Sin causes both! We must all face physical death (Hebrews 9:27), but it isn't necessary for us to be eternally separated from God. This brings me to the second thing I see in Romans 6:23...

Salvation. Paul further wrote, "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." A footnote in my Bible next to "gift" says "Free gift." While it may be debated whether the word "free" belongs in this verse, the concept is right on target. Paul says we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). He goes on to say that it is not of works. He doesn't

mean here that we must do nothing to receive salvation, for God has made obedience to Him essential to salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9). Paul's meaning is somewhat two-fold.

First, God didn't look down on man and say "They've been so good lately, they deserve for Me to send My Son to die for them." No, He sacrificed His Son for those who had set themselves up as enemies to God (Romans 5:6-9).

Second, Paul meant in Ephesians 2:8 that we can never do anything to earn salvation. We must obey God to receive it, but even after we have obeyed we still haven't earned it. Otherwise, God would owe us salvation and it would no longer be a free gift (Grace) (Romans 4:2-4).

Notice Paul said that salvation is "in Christ" (Romans 6:23; See also 2 Timothy 2:10). How does one get into Christ where salvation is? Baptism (Galatians 3:26-27).

Sacrifice. I also see sacrifice in Romans 6:23. Christ sacrificed His life for our sins. By doing so He made our salvation possible. In turn, we must sacrifice our lives in service to Him if we would finally make it to eternal life in heaven (Romans 12:1-2). No cross, no crown! (Revelation 2:10). 🔍

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SIN UNTO DEATH

Michael Pickford

"If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that" (1 John 5:16).

What is the sin leading to death? Some believe it is 1) Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. 2) A crime for which authorities may enact the death penalty. 3) A sin like that of Ananias and Sapphira's which brings instant physical death. 4) A sin which causes the church to withdraw fellowship. 5) Any sin not repented of, causing one to die spiritually now and lose his soul eternally.

Contextually, nothing indicates capital punishment, church discipline, or blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The statement is made in the context of prayer. Other passages teach that prayer is required for the forgiveness of any sin committed by a child of God. After sinning, Simon was told to *"...pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you"* (Acts 8:22). Simon then asked Peter

to pray for him. This is what 1 John 5:16 is talking about; a brother praying for the forgiveness of another brother who has sinned.

If that person has sinned, repented, and confessed, then another brother may pray, asking God to forgive him (This is just what we do when someone comes forward to confess sin). If he repented then it was not a sin unto death. However, if the Christian does not repent of his sin, he is sinning unto death. For this, John says it is useless to ask God to forgive him, because God will not forgive any sin not repented of. This man, because of his impenitence, is sinning a sin which has caused him to die spiritually now, and will cause him to lose his soul eternally. (The "death" here is likely spiritual rather than physical because it's in contrast to the "life" (spiritual life) which God would give him when the prayer is said).

Some feel they have committed some mysterious "sin unto death" and can never be forgiven. No, the sin unto death is ANY sin that is not repented of. If you have sinned, repent! 🔍

A GODLY MOTHER

Have you ever heard someone say something like, "A godly mother is worth a thousand sermons?" Two people can learn something from this statement, the mother and the child. A mother must serve the Lord and seek to raise her children to be godly (Titus 2:3-4). But the child must learn to respect his godly mother (Ephesians 6:2) and be obedient to her. "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother" (Proverbs 1:8).



SERMON NOTES

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

Love Your Enemies!

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....John Nelson
Reading: Matthew 5:43-48
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Ben Reagh
Serve.....Chris Meade
Serve.....Robert Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table.....Ben Reagh

Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader..... Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

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!

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**