

PLUS ONE SERVICE

Michael Pickford

A hotel in Washington, D.C. has a customer service policy they call “Plus One Service.” Their employees are instructed to do at least one thing for the customer in addition to what is requested. For example, if a guest requests a key at the desk, the clerk would not only get the key, but he would ask if a wake-up call was desired. Upon giving a wake-up call, the operator would give a brief weather report.

The manager explains that not only does it make for better service, but it somehow makes them better people. He then adds, “It’s kind of a secret of successful living.”

I wonder if this manager realizes that each room in his hotel probably has a book in the drawer that reveals this same “secret.”

Every Christian should have a “Plus One Service” policy. Whether it be in the workplace, in the schools, or when we have guests ourselves, we always need to do a little extra in striving to please others. *“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others”* (Philippians 2:4).

What’s that book in the drawer? It’s the Bible, and in it, the Lord said, *“And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two”* (Matthew 5:41). 🔍

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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THE CHURCH JESUS BUILT

Michael Pickford

While there are many man-made “churches,” the Bible speaks of only one true church. There is *“One body”* (Ephesians 4:4). The body is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18). In Romans 16:16 we find the phrase *“churches of Christ.”* This is accurate as opposed to a man-made name (Acts 4:12). After all, it was Christ Who built the church (Matthew 16:16-19; Acts 2:47). Regarding the church Jesus built, consider the...

Plan. The church was not an “Afterthought” or a “Parenthesis” as some would have us believe. God planned it from the beginning; it was in His *“Eternal purpose.”* Paul taught that the church was to make known the manifold wisdom of God *“According to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Ephesians 3:10-11).

Pattern. God has given a specific pattern for how the church is to be organized. The pattern is simple and differs greatly from the way man-made churches are organized. Philippians 1:1 captures the essence of how the church is to be organized today when it states *“To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi with the bishops and deacons.”* “Bishops” are one and

the same as “Elders,” “Presbyters,” “Shepherds,” “Pastors,” and “Overseers,” (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-4). All six of the above English words come from only three Greek words and all three of these Greek words refer to the same office of men in the passages cited above. The qualifications for Elders and Deacons are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 (Elders & Deacons) and Titus 1:5-9 (Elders only). The concepts of Popes, Cardinals, Pastor Systems, etc. are man-made and nowhere found in the Bible. Of course, Christ is the Head and the only head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23).

Purpose. The purpose of the church is not to feed and entertain as many man-made churches do today. *“For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit”* (Romans 14:17). To reduce the church to a social club and entertainment center is to insult The Lord. The eternal purpose of the church is to make known the manifest wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10-11). That is, the church is to sound forth the Gospel (1 Thessalonians 1:8). The lost must be saved and the saved must be edified. This is the purpose of the church Jesus built! 🔍

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JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Michael Pickford

If all judgment has been established on the day of Pentecost, committed to Jesus (John 5:22; Acts 17:31), in what way would the apostles “*Sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel*” (Luke 22:30)?

One possible explanation is that the twelve tribes of Israel are not to be taken literally, but rather as a reference to the church, God’s spiritual Israel (Gal. 6:16). James also used the twelve tribes figuratively to refer to Christians (James 1:1). Paul used it this way (Romans 9:6; See also Rom. 2:29). So the apostles were to judge the church, but in what way?

In a sense, the apostles were the foundation upon which the house of God had been built, with Christ as the Chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). When we answer the question as to how the apostles were the foundation of the church, we will answer the question as to how they judge the church. The apostles were the foundation of the church in the sense that it was through their preaching and teaching that the church was established (Acts 2). They taught only the Gospel of Christ as revealed to them by Jesus Himself through the Holy Spirit (John 12:26).

Just before the church was established on the day of Pentecost, the apostles were to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them and direct their teaching (Acts 1:8). This is exactly what happened! “*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance*” (Acts 2:4). The apostles’ preaching resulted in the establishment of the church (Acts 2:40, 41, 47), so they are called “*The foundation*” (Ephesians 2:20).

The apostles judge the twelve tribes of Israel (the Church) by preaching and teaching the Gospel truths of Jesus Christ, revealed to them by the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14:37, “*The things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.*” Paul’s teaching, as well as the teaching of the other apostles, was the commandments of the Lord. This teaching always judged the lives of others. It judged them to be faithful Christians, unfaithful Christians, or alien sinners. When they heard the teachings of the apostles, their minds were brought to the point of acknowledging what spiritual state they were in.

On the last day, Jesus will use this same Gospel will judge us all (John 12:48). 🔍

GENEROSITY PAYS

Many believe the road to riches lies in hard work and hoarding. Hard work is commendable, but if material riches are the goal, you might be disappointed. This attitude hinders you from sharing with the needy. Indeed, sharing is the road to riches; ultimately, eternal riches! Even in this life, sharing will cause others to share with you when you have need. “*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.*” –Proverbs 11:24



SERMON NOTES

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

The ABCs of The Gospel

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Sam Miller
Reading: 2 Samuel 22:1-4
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey
Serve.....Chris Meade
Serve.....Frank Anderson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Lord’s Table.....Lynn Buttrey

Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Invitation.....Ben Green

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**

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!