

BALDERDASH

Michael Pickford

Many years ago I was introduced to a delightful game called *Balderdash*. Since then, I've had a great deal of fun playing this game on different occasions.

One day I decided I wanted to know what this strange word means. The word *Balderdash*, as defined by the *World Book Dictionary*, means: Nonsense, foolishness; trash.

This made me think of much of the religious teaching going on in the religious world at large. When you compare many of the teachings of the so-called "religious leaders" of our day with the word of God, you'll find it to be "Nonsense." Many of the doctrines

they espouse are the traditions and commandments of men, not the word of God (Matt. 15:8, 9).

This spiritual "Trash" is being dumped into the minds of millions, leading them to the destruction of their souls (2 Peter 2:2). For this reason, we must be diligent in testing the spirits to see whether they are of God (1 Jn. 4:1).

You test the spirits by taking what you are being taught and comparing it with the word of God (Acts 17:11). If it agrees with God's word, believe it, practice it, and share it. If not, reject it.

Don't be fooled by religious "Balderdash." Religious error, even if sincerely taught, condemns the soul. 🔍

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 DEATH OF STEPHEN

Michael Pickford

Stephen is the first recorded Christian martyr. He laid down his life for the Lord. There is much to learn from the way he died. Note his...

Confidence. It took great courage for Stephen to present the sermon he presented, and to refer to his audience as "*Stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears*" (Acts 7:51). But it took greater courage still to continue to express his belief in Jesus after the stoning had begun and death seemed eminent. Many might cower out of the situation in order to save their own neck. Not Stephen! It takes bravery and courage to remain faithful to the Lord, especially when one's life is endangered for it. So Paul tells Christians "*Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong*" (1 Corinthians 16:13). Stephen lost his life on earth in order to stand fast. Often, we must lose our life in order to stand fast. I'm not speaking of physical death; I'm speaking of making the necessary sacrifices sometimes required of us – movies that are foul, songs that contain vulgarity, even video games that portray immorality, refusing to deny the Lord when our friends give us a hard time, etc.

Confidence. With confidence Stephen said "*Lord Jesus, receive my spirit*" (Acts 7:59). This is the way I want to face death - with confidence of my salvation. If I can't know I'm going to heaven when I die, then I don't want to take my last breath. God has not called us to some flimsy half-baked hope, but to a "*Living hope*" (1 Peter 1:3). Nearing his own death, Paul spoke as a man who was certain of his salvation when he said "*Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness*" (2 Timothy 4:8). John wrote so "*That you may know that you have eternal life*" (1 John 5:13). We can "*know*"! We can have that blessed assurance.

Concern. With his dying breath, Stephen said "*Lord, do not charge them with this sin*" (Acts 7:60). Stephen was concerned with the salvation of lost souls. Though he was dying, he wanted his murderers to repent before their death, and find salvation. The Lord is "*Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9). Like Stephen, we too should emulate God's concern for the lost. If we possess it, we will be busy trying to teach them the soul-saving message of the Gospel (Romans 1:16).. 🔍

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THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Michael Pickford

The first beatitude states, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3). The beatitudes have their own reward with the exception of the first and the last. This is a stylistic device known as an "Inclusion." The idea is that each of the beatitudes is rewarded with, "The kingdom of heaven."

Are the poor in spirit those who are financially bankrupt? Certainly not! Jesus is speaking of those who realize their true **spiritual** condition without God and Christ. Jesus places a blessing upon those who realize they are spiritually bankrupt!

The first beatitude requires one to realize the error of his ways. He must realize he is a sinner. He must be willing to swallow his pride and admit his need for forgiveness. Many don't realize this, even among religious people.

The Pharisee of Jesus' parable (Luke 18:9-14) had the gall to approach God as a braggart. He basically told God, "Aren't you glad that such a wonderful, righteous person like me belongs to you?" In fact, his words were, "God, I thank

you that I am not like other men - extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector." He then began to brag on himself, "I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I possess." He had no clue what "poor in spirit" meant. He felt no need for the expressive love of God, or the cleansing blood of Christ.

On the other hand, the tax collector saw his sinful condition and realized he desperately needed forgiveness. In fact, he saw the grossness of his sin so clearly that he was ashamed to even look up into heaven when he addressed the Creator of the universe. Here was a man who was perfectly illustrating to us what the Lord meant by "poor in spirit." He, "*standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'*" He went down justified because he met the needs of the first beatitude.

When we sin, we need the humility to realize we have become spiritually bankrupt, and have a great need to beg God for His forgiveness. Be poor in spirit! 

How To Die

Some contemplate the best way to die, preferring to go quickly rather than slowly and painfully; preferring to die in their sleep peacefully, rather than in a tragic accident. Me? I just want to die "In the Lord." "*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on...*" (Revelation 14:13). I feel like the prophet who said "*Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my end be like his!*" (Numbers 23:10). "*Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints*" (Psalm 116:15). -MP



SERMON NOTES

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

The Transfiguration

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Kenny Johnson
Reading: Matthew 17:1-5
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Brad Todd
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Ben Reagh

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord's Table.....Kenny 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

Obey Today!

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**