

## GOD'S COMPASS

Michael Pickford

He constantly got lost in the woods while hunting, making him persistently late arriving home. When asked by his frustrated wife why he didn't use his compass, he informed her that he knew those woods like the back of his hand. He owned a compass, she had recently purchased him a new one; he simply refused to use it, insisting on relying upon his own knowledge to guide him through the woods. The result? He always got lost!

The Bible is God's compass. As we travel through the woods of life, it is imperative that we use His word as our guide. "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."

Many religionists refuse to utilize God's directing compass. They insist upon following their own feelings, or their own consciences. They continue to say things like, "I believe this," or "I feel right about this," or "this seems right to me," or "I think this is right," or "I see it this way." Sadly, as a result, just like that stubborn hunter, they will remain lost, for "There is a way that seems right to a man, but it's end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). 🔍

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



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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### PRAYER

Michael Pickford

God never tires of hearing us in prayer. Wonderful things happen to us when we live expectantly, believe confidently, and pray affirmatively. Prayer gives strength to the weak, faith to the fainthearted, and courage to the fearful. Paul said to "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is (a)...

**Privilege.** Prayer is a privilege for the child of God. "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers..." (1 Peter 3:12). If one is in Christ, he can pray with confidence that God hears his prayers (1 John 5:14). Those on the outside of Christ are not promised this confidence. In fact, Peter continued in the verse above, "But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." If you're not a child of God through obedience to His Gospel (Galatians 3:26-27), then you are missing out on one of the most wonderful blessings ever bestowed upon mankind - the opportunity to communicate with the Creator of the universe with confidence that He hears your prayers.

**Purifier.** Once one becomes a child of God, he may sin occasionally, or he may stumble back into a life of sin.

Either way, God has included prayer as part of what must be done to become pure again. One must repent, confess and pray. When he sinned, Simon was told by Peter "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you" (Acts 8:22). When we sin, we often avoid prayer out of shame, thinking we don't have the right to pray to God. This is just what the devil wants us to think. Listen, we never have that right; prayer is a privilege. When we sin, God has told us that pray is what we must do. Pray, confess your sin and ask for God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

**Powerful.** Through prayer, we can actually change God's mind. Read 2 Kings 20:1-5. King Hezekiah was told specifically by God through Isaiah that he was going to die. After Isaiah left his room, Hezekiah prayed to God with tears. Before Isaiah could even get out to the inner court, God told him to turn around and go back and tell Hezekiah "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you." Hezekiah changed God's mind with his prayer! Ask yourself this question – What if Hezekiah had never prayed that prayer? He would have died! Prayer is powerful. 🔍

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**THE MERCIFUL**

**Michael Pickford**

Jesus said “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7). This Beatitude is reminiscent of the words of David in Psalm 41:1 “Blessed is he who considers the poor; The LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.” And the later words of James, “For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment” (James 2:13). Again, the Lord Jesus, the One Who said “Blessed are the merciful,” became the epitome of mercy when He gave His life for us on the cruel cross of Calvary. When God gives us grace, He gives us what we don’t deserve - salvation; when He shows us mercy, He withholds from us what we do deserve – punishment. When the Tax Collector pleaded with God to “Be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13), he was begging God to withhold the punishment he deserved for His sins. On the cross, Jesus extended to us both grace and mercy (Titus 3:4-7). We were deserving of death.

Mercy is the opposite of revenge. We often want to exact revenge on

our enemies, or on those who have wronged us. Remember, Jesus died on the cross for His enemies (Romans 5:6-9). Not only did we do nothing to be deserving of Christ’s sacrifice, but we did everything to be undeserving of it! This should prompt us to also be merciful to our enemies. In fact, Jesus later said “...Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). Those who wrong us may not deserve our mercy, but we must extend it anyway – just like Jesus (1 John 2:6).

Paul later wrote, “Repay no one evil for evil...do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord” (Romans 12:17-19). Don’t misunderstand Paul to be encouraging an attitude of vengeance. That is, don’t say to yourself “He’ll get his one day.” Don’t relish the thought of his future eternal punishment. This is a vengeful spirit! Instead, pray that he will repent, and try to do what you can to effect that repentance. 🔑

**DEPENDENCE ON GOD**

An eight-year-old prayed “God bless our mothers and our fathers and our teachers and our brothers and our sisters – and please take care of yourself, God; if anything happens to you, we’re sunk!” As adults, we’re quite certain nothing will happen to endanger God, but this child’s prayer reflects a simple honest dependency upon God. It displays his attitude of full dependence upon the Almighty. What is a “Given” to his young mind is something we often forget, that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...” (James 1:17). -MP



Introduction:

**DUTY LIST...**

**SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Kenny Johnson  
Reading:
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord’s Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
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

**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!**