

ASSEMBLY REQUIRED!

Michael Pickford

Over the course of time I have purchased several different products that read on their packaging, "Assembly Required."

I can't say I enjoy putting some of these things together, but what good are they to anyone if I just open them up and leave the unassembled pieces lying around?

Over the years I have ran across several individuals who proclaim, "I'm a 24-7 Christian." Their point is that their Christianity is something they practice twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, therefore, they do not have to be a member of a certain church, nor do they have to assemble

with the saints.

I certainly agree that the entirety of our lives should be devoted to remaining faithful to God; but I must hasten to point out that God has made assembling with the saints a requirement! (Hebrews 10:25).

Without assembling those products I've purchased, they would be useless, worthless, and unprofitable.

May I add: Without assembling with the saints on a regular basis, a Christian's life becomes useless to others, worthless to God, and unprofitable for everyone! When it comes to serving God, remember the phrase, "Assembly Required!" 

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.



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

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BETTER IN CHRIST

Michael Pickford

When we obey the Gospel, God has placed us in a much better situation. Instead of being lost in our sins, we are now forgiven and given a hope of eternal life. But God demands that we offer Him something better than the old man of sin. When we become Christians, we must have...

Better Customs. Our habits should change. Reading questionable novels should be replaced with reading the Bible on a daily basis (Acts 17:11). If we were in the habit of worrying, this should be replaced with prayer, faith, trust and confidence in a God who provides (Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:6-7). Sunday morning TV, golf and fishing should be replaced with getting a good night's rest on Saturday evening so we can assemble with the saints on Sunday morning (Hebrews 10:25).

Better Control. The Gospel enjoins self control upon the child of God (Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Peter 1:6). There are many areas in which self control is required. The Sex drive for example. Our sexual thoughts and desires should be kept under a mental lock and key. This desire is only to be fulfilled within the marriage relationship. Fornicators and adulterers God will

judge (Hebrews 13:4). We also need to get control of our eating habits. The Greek word for "self control" eventually took on other meanings, but originally referred to the appetite. Many Christians over-indulge at the table to the point of compromising their physical health. Our bodies should be understood as belonging to God and respected as such (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). There is also the need to bring our tongues under control. "Cussing," dirty jokes, euphemisms, gossip and slander are much too common among God's people. No man can do it alone, but with the strength of Christ, we can and must bring our tongues under control (James 3:8; Philippians 4:13).

Better Clothes. Tragically, immodesty runs rampant in our society, and sadly, even among members of the Lord's church. When we become Christians, it matters to God what we wear. We should dress ourselves in a way that professes godliness. The Bible emphasizes the need for modest apparel (1 Timothy 2:9). If our clothes cause others to lust, those who lust have a problem, but if our apparel (or lack thereof) caused them to lust, we have a problem too (Matthew 18:6-7). We need to start wearing better clothes. 

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www.defendthegospel.com

HARD SAYINGS

Michael Pickford

Therefore many of His (Jesus') Disciples, when they heard this, said, 'This is a hard saying; who can understand it?'"(Jn. 6:60) The word "hard" means "difficult." Many of Jesus' teachings are still considered hard to understand today. The truth is, there really are some things recorded in the New Testament which are difficult to understand. However, the reason one considers something hard to understand is crucial to whether or not they will one day understand them, or if they'll just turn away from the truths of Jesus, just as these folks in John six did. Consider three reasons folks fail to understand certain passages.

(1) Some passages seem to contradict well established traditions. When Jesus taught God's truth about marriage and divorce in Matthew 19, his disciples decided it was better for a man to remain unmarried (Matt. 19:10). The most popular belief of the day was that a man could put his wife away for various reasons. Jesus, however, taught that fornication was the only valid reason. The same is true today. There are many who will not come to Christ because they are in an adulterous marriage; and there are many preachers who teach them that they don't have to leave their unlawful wives. To them, the Lord's teaching continues to be a

hard saying.
(2) Folks have not yet studied the passage in detail. They need to compare other passages, study some commentaries, use a bible dictionary and some other tools. With diligence, these passages can and will be understood. In fact, we are commanded to understand the will of the Lord (Eph. 5:17).

(3) The passage contradicts certain practices that folks refuse to denounce. Homosexuals refuse to cease their abominable lifestyle, so they fail to understand passages which teach against it (Romans 1:26-27). Drunkards refuse to give up their bottle, so they fail to understand passages which condemn drinking (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Fornicators refuse to give up their promiscuity, so they fail to understand passages condemning fornication (Hebrews 13:4). As a result, we have in our society homosexuals claiming to be faithful Christians. Accepting one verse will keep one from falling into the two dishonorable categories mentioned. "If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine" (Jn. 7:17). If you truly have a desire to do God's will, regardless of the cost, those hard sayings will eventually, with study, melt away. 🔍

BURY THE HATCHET

The above phrase reportedly comes from an old practice of Native Americans. When two tribes came to a peace agreement they would literally bury a hatchet (a war instrument) to symbolize the agreement. The phrase is still used today, but when some bury the hatchet they want to leave the handle sticking out. Once we forgive someone, we must reaffirm our love to them (2 Corinthians 2:8-11).



SERMON NOTES

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

Osama Bin Laden

STUDY DAILY!
Acts 17:11

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Chris Meade
Reading: 1 Peter 2:13-17
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Brad Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Invitation.....Ben Green

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!