

## ASLEEP?

Michael Pickford

A bible class teacher once asked her young children, "And why should we be quiet during church services?" One little girl responded, "Because people are trying to sleep!"

Imagine that! What kind of example had been set for her by her elders? Seriously, one can sleep at home, but we must remember that each worship service is a special dedication to the Lord, it's purpose being worship God and edify the saints (Colossians 3:16-17; Hebrews 10:24-25).

Here are some tips to help you stay awake during the sermon. (1) Actually pay attention to what the preacher is saying (Nehemiah 8:3). (2) Manually

Try to look up each Bible reference given and/or write them down while taking other notes. Record the main points, scripture references, etc.. You can keep this to study the lesson throughout the week (Acts 17:11). (4) Think about the kind of example you set for others in the service (especially children) when you sleep. (5) Remember, the children aren't the only ones watching you sleep, God is there too!

*"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him"* (Psa. 89:7). Does your sleeping demonstrate reverence for God? 

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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## BAPTISM

Michael Pickford

Much is said in the Gospel about baptism. Notice its...

**Purpose.** Ananias said to Saul *"Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the Name of the Lord"* (Acts 22:16). Baptism's purpose is to wash away the sins of the sinner. Through baptism, one calls on the name of the Lord. Jesus said one must be baptized in order to be saved. There's nothing special or miraculous about water, it's just an act of obedience to the Lord. It's the blood of Christ that washes away our sins (Ephesians 1:7), but it's at the point of baptism that we contact His blood (Romans 6:3).

**Pattern.** Many religions practice sprinkling or pouring in the place of baptism, while calling these practices "Baptism." Our English word "Baptism" is really just an anglicized version of the Greek word *baptizo*. The Greek word is defined variously with words like "To dip, to plunge, to overwhelm, to submerge..." So we're dealing with a burial in water. In fact, Paul wrote *"Buried with Him in baptism..."* (Colossians 2:12). It makes sense to refer to baptism as a burial inasmuch as baptism makes us new creatures in which the dead

man of sins is buried and the new man arises to *"Walk in newness of life"* (Romans 6:4; Ephesians 2:1). This is the pattern given for baptism by Paul in Romans 6:1-5.

**Participants.** There's no such thing as "Baptism only salvation." Scriptural baptism is only for those whose hearts have been prepared for it. One must hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus as God's Son (John 8:24), repent of his sins (Acts 2:38), and confess his faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10). Only after doing these things does one become a scriptural candidate for baptism.

One who participates in baptism understands that its purpose is to wash away his sins and place him in Christ and in Christ's church (Galatians 3:26-27; Acts 2:47). An infant or small child cannot be a scriptural participant in baptism inasmuch as he hasn't yet the capacity to understand and appreciate emotionally the true nature of sin. An infant lacks the capacity to believe, and the Lord specifically taught that baptism is for believers. Not being able to commit sin, infants and small children have nothing to be saved from, so they are "Safe" and heaven bound (2 Samuel 12:22-23). 

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# THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

Michael Pickford

It was a beautiful block with pristine houses and immaculately kept yards. Then some new folks moved into the empty house on the corner. They rarely mowed their yard. Weeds soon engulfed the entire block; odd items began to clutter the back yard. Old cars were frequently left parked in the front yard. A broken window and a cracked shutter went unrepaired. The neighbors protested at first; complaints were made to the proper people, but nothing changed. So one by one they gave up, and soon, all the yards on the block denigrated to the same shabby level as their new neighbor's. And, well... there goes the neighborhood.

The apostle Paul wrote long ago, "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump" (1 Corinthians 5:6). Paul's interest was not in giving baking advice; he was concerned with the spreading influence of sin. This influence has the capability of infecting and affecting the entire church in a negative way.

The church at Corinth had in its midst one who was guilty of one of the vilest of sins – incest (vs. 1). This was a sin so shameful that even the heathen

would be ashamed to be caught up in such. Yet the Corinthians gloried! They just went on accepting the man in his sin, treating him as if nothing were wrong. As a result, the man continued in his sin with his soul in jeopardy, and the church was at risk of falling as well. You see, if another member fell into sin, and the church tried to do something about it, that individual could just point at the incestuous man as say "But what about him?" Pretty soon, one by one, every member of the church could fall into a life of sin.

But this concept of negative influence can threaten to affect individual Christians as well. Paul wrote "Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33 - ESV). We may not be able to pick who we shop with, who we work with, who we sit next to at school, etc. But we do get to choose who we spend the bulk of our time with; who we make our closest and dearest friends. Some think they can "Run with" those of the world without their sinful behavior rubbing off on them. Paul said "Do not be deceived!"

## GOSPEL MEETING FLYERS

Our Gospel Meeting with Dave Morrison is very near, starting only three weeks from today! Flyers are in the back for distribution. There are also mini-flyers available. Take as many of these as you want, we can make more. An electronic copy of the flyer is also available on our web-site. You can print them up, or share them via e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, etc. Postcard invitations are also available in the back. All you have to do is add your friend's address and place a 28 cent postcard stamp on it. Why not mail out several? Spread the word! Souls are at stake.



## SERMON NOTES

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

### The Stiff-Necked

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

Introduction:

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Michael Pickford  
Reading: 1 Peter 2:13-17
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Chris Meade  
Serve.....Ben Green

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Todd

##### Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

**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!**