

## STICKS AND STONES

Michael Pickford

As a child I often heard (and sometimes used) the phrase, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." Sounds good doesn't it? I think we probably used that phrase specifically because those words DID hurt us, but we didn't want the "bully" to get the satisfaction of knowing it.

Whatever the reason for the phrase, Jesus certainly disagrees with it! The reality is, "Sticks and stones can break my bones but my words may EVER hurt me." Jesus taught, "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt. 12:37). This places a great importance

upon the words we choose to speak. If we're not careful, we can talk ourselves right out of heaven.

We should speak kind words to others whether we are in the work place, our homes, or the market place. We must always take care to season our speech with salt, that it may impart grace to the hearers, asking God for wisdom to know what to say to everyone in each situation (Colossians 4:5-6). No man can tame his tongue, not alone, but with Christ's strength we can (James 3:8; Philippians 4:13). That "bully" spoke words to hurt others, when in reality, according to Jesus' words; he was hurting himself infinitely more. 🔍

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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## RUNNING GOD'S TRACK

Michael Pickford

The life of a Christian is often depicted in the Bible as a race. We should run with discipline, keeping our eye on the prize, realizing the possibility of being disqualified (1 Corinthians 9:25-27). We must run according to the rules, the doctrine of Christ (2 Timothy 2:5; 2 John 9); and we must finish the race, that is, faithfully keep the faith until death (2 Timothy 4:6-8). During this race, the faith of men long ago cheer us on to victory, as we keep our eyes on the Lord (Hebrews 12:1-2). The Hebrews writer urges us to run with endurance the race "That is set before us." Some want to enter the Christian race and then choose their own track. This isn't how it works; we must run the race set before us. In running this track, we must be...

Set for Resistance. It is a shame, but the fact is when we become children of God folks are going to resist us. In times past, as well as in some parts of the world today, Christians have had to face extreme persecution, sometimes even death, because of their faith. Jesus said "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). We sometimes face resistance from our

families, but the Lord taught that we must love Him more (Matthew 10:37-39).

Skilled for Retaliation. There are many, especially false teachers, who will retaliate against our faith. They don't criticize the fact that we're in the race, they just try to teach us to change the rules. They try to choose their own track by changing or ignoring essential truths of the Gospel. We must be ready to give an answer for the things we believe (1 Peter 3:15). We must study to become skilled in the word of God so we might not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Acts 17:11; Ephesians 4:11-15). We must be prepared to "contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 3).

Suited for Resilience. Ever hear someone say about another, "He's just not suited for this job?" We must be suited in Christ so that we might be resilient to the things Satan flings at us (Ephesians 6:10-20). This requires diligent daily study (Acts 17:11), regular attendance of worship services (Hebrews 10:24-25), and diligent persistent prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Through these, Christ gives us the strength we need for victory (Philippians 4:13). 🔍

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**HATRED**  
**Michael Pickford**

From nearly the beginning of time this work of the flesh (Galatians 5:20), hatred, has existed. It was exemplified in Cain as he rose up to kill his brother Abel. Paul writes that those who hate will not inherit the kingdom of God.

“Hatred” literally means, “antipathies, and want of love, producing contentions and strifes.” This attribute is opposed to love and kindness. This word describes the feeling of hatred within one’s heart without the action it produces, but hatred can lead to evil acts. The proverbs writer defined this word well when he wrote, “*Hatred stirs up strife*” (Proverbs 10:12). In fact, in Paul’s list of the works of the flesh, he gave “contentions” as the next sin after hatred. The Lord taught that hatred leads to murder (Matthew 21-26).

Many people, even Christians in some cases, have hatred in their hearts for various different people. There are some who hate their parents, but the Bible says to honor your father and your mother (Ephesians 6:2). Some hate their enemies, but Lord said to

love your enemies (Matthew 5:44). Some hate their brother or their sister, but John wrote, “*He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now...*” (1 John 2:9). Some people have come to hate their bosses, but Paul wrote that we should serve them as if we were working for the Lord. Do you hate the Lord? Some do, (John 7:7). Then there are those who are “haters of God” (Romans 1:30).

Indeed, this evil attribute of hatred is felt in the hearts of many for various different people in their lives. What a shame! People who carry around hatred become very bitter people and usually live their lives with no true inner peace. “*Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred*” (Proverbs 15:17). Their lives become even worse when they act upon that hatred by involving themselves in fights and malicious acts, including murder. But the worst comes when they face God on judgment day and are condemned for their hatred. LOVE! 🔍

Introduction:

**DUTY LIST...**

**SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Chris Meade  
Reading: 1 John 4:1-6
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....Brad Todd  
Serve.....Frank Anderson

**SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord’s Table.....Lynn Buttrey

**Wednesday Evening**

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Invitation.....N/A

**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!**

OUR  
**Gospel Meeting**  
WITH DAVE MORRISON  
JUNE 19-24  
SUNDAY: 9 & 10 AM, 6 PM  
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 7 PM  
EVERYONE INVITED!



**Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!**