

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Michael Pickford

A recent survey explored peoples' views of Heaven and Hell. In all, 76% believe that Heaven exists, while nearly the same proportion said that there is such a thing as Hell (71%).

Most Americans do not expect to experience Hell first-hand: just one-half of 1% expect to go to Hell upon their death. Nearly two-thirds of Americans (64%) believe they will go to Heaven.

One in every four adults (24%) admitted that they have "no idea" what will happen after they die.

Jesus gave us a pretty good idea when He said "*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are*

many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

It is sad that so many have "No idea" where they are going in eternity. The Bible assures us that we can know our eternal destiny. Those who obey the Gospel are promised eternal life (Acts 2:38; Titus 1:1-2), while those who do not obey the Gospel will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (2 Thess 1:7-9). Have you obeyed the Gospel (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16)? Where are you going? 🔍

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

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

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

Volume 7, Number 26

July 17, 2011

NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

Michael Pickford

The Apostle Paul wrote "*For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'*" (Romans 1:16-17). Note Three things here about the Gospel...

The Power of the Gospel. It is God's power to salvation. How often have you witnessed someone utterly worldly and sinful changing completely upon hearing and obeying the Gospel? Perhaps you can think of your own life.

The blood of Jesus Christ washes away our sins (Revelation 1:5; Ephesians 1:7), baptism puts us in contact with His blood (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16), but it is the Gospel that tells us about the blood and baptism. It is the Gospel that tells us about the Lord Jesus Christ. "*It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe*" (1 Corinthians 1:21). Have you obeyed the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Hebrews 5:8-9)?

The Prospects of the Gospel. The prospects of the Gospel include everyone. Anyone who comes to the

Lord on His terms will receive salvation. No one has been too sinful that he can't receive forgiveness. It matters not how long you have served sin, nor how hideous the sins you've committed are. You can be washed, sanctified and justified (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Jesus died to be the propitiation for the sins of the "*Whole world*" (1 John 2:2). He is the "Savior of all men, especially of those who believe (1 Timothy 4:10). Those in Acts 2 were guilty of murdering Jesus, God's Son (Acts 2:36), yet many of them were forgiven upon obedience (Acts 2:38).

The Provisions of the Gospel. In the Gospel, God has provided for us everything we need to come to the Lord, and to remain faithful to Him. We need not, indeed we must not consult the creed books of men, The Gospel gives us everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Paul said in our passage "The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). We live spiritually by the faith of the Gospel. Faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17), and it keeps on coming and growing by continuing to hear God's word – The Gospel. 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

SPOKESMEN FOR CHRIST

Michael Pickford

Large companies often hire a celebrity to be their spokesman. These celebrities are paid handsomely to speak out for the product. Shouldn't we, as Christians, be spokesmen for Christ? After all, the incentives are not earthly and passing, but spiritual and eternal!

Paul was a great spokesman for the Lord. He wrote, "But I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:32). In this context Paul was comparing the Christ/church relationship with the husband/wife relationship; but Paul was always ready to speak about Christ and His church. Do you find this odd from a man who was once adamant about destroying the church? (Galatians 1:13). Regardless of the circumstances, Paul was always ready to speak the wonderful words of Christ. All through the middle to latter part of the book of Acts we find Paul speaking concerning Christ and the church. Why? Because "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains" (Acts 26:29). He wanted people to be saved and he knew that this necessitated the

preaching of the gospel of Christ (Mark 16:15; Romans 10:14, 17).

Should we not be quick to follow Paul's example? (1 Corinthians 11:1). We must speak concerning Christ and His church. Those Christians in Jerusalem in the first century were quick to speak about Christ when they were driven out of Jerusalem due to a great wave of persecution against the saints (Acts 8:1-4). Sadly, not only are some saints not trying to teach and convert their friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers, but some would not be able to cite a single Bible passage in answer to a simple bible question (1 Peter 3:15). Not only should we, through diligent study, be able to answer the world's bible questions when asked, but we should take the initiative to speak out first in trying to convert lost sinners to the Lord. If you need incentive to do so, then just picture them burning in the eternal flames of fire; this should break your heart enough to try and teach them. In fact, this was a strong incentive for Paul: "Knowing, therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..." (2 Corinthians 5:11). Let's be spokesmen for Christ! ☺

A TRUE FRIEND

It has been said that "A friend walks in when everyone else walks out." The Bible says "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). The closest friend we'll ever have is the Lord Jesus Christ; "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13). How can we be friends with Christ? "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you" (John 15:14). Are you friends with Christ? (Mark 16:16).



SERMON NOTES

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

Christian Fruit Basket (2)

STUDY DAILY!
Acts 17:11

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Kenny Todd
- Bible Reading by.....Cory Klinebriel
Reading: Galatians 5:19-23
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Michael Pickford
- Closing Prayer.....Ben Reagh

SUNDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Ben Green

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!