

## OFF THE CLOCK

Michael Pickford

When I worked in restaurant management I would sometimes see a worker present in uniform and I knew they were not there within their scheduled hours. I would ask them if they were off the clock. Actually, it's nice to be off the clock. There are no responsibilities and no one expects anything from you. Some Christians sometimes act as if they are off the clock. It's as if they are clocking in and out of Christianity. When we're around certain people, we clock in. When we're around other people, perhaps our friends in the world, we clock out.

Clocking out means we lay aside those principles which are to guide our lives

at all times as God's children. We may find ourselves getting involved in gossip, lewdness, drinking, smoking, cussing and a host of other worldly things. The clock in/out spiritual mentality constitutes hypocrisy (Matthew 7:1-18; Romans 2:3). This type of behavior significantly harms our influence in the world. *"For 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you'"* (Romans 2:24).

We "Clock in" to Christ by obeying the Gospel through baptism (Galatians 3:26-27). We stay on the clock by remaining faithful at all times (Revelation 2:10). 🔍

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
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 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

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

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

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### THIS JUST IN...

Michael Pickford

If you ever watch the news, you might occasionally hear the newsman say... "This just in." The phrase is usually followed with what they believe to be groundbreaking, earth-shattering news. A few things occurred to me along these lines. There are some things I would love to hear the newsman say immediately after "This Just In"...

**Bible Respected.** We once lived in a nation in which the word of God enjoyed at least some amount of respect. It seems now in many ways that many Americans are trying to run God out of the country. Wouldn't you fall out of your chair (With joy) if the newsman said "This just in... 'The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all nations that forget God'" (Psalm 9:17). Or if he said something like "All denominations have decided to throw out their man-made creed books and get back to just the Bible" (1 Peter 4:11).

**Baptism Required.** Wow! How wonderful it would be if our newsman said something like... "This just in...Religious scholars across the globe have decided that, contrary to their traditional belief, baptism is required in order for one to be saved after all."

Of course this is two thousand years old "News" for those who believe what the Lord actually said, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

One cannot be saved until his sins are removed (Isaiah 59:1-2); Saul was told to "Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins..." (Acts 22:16). If baptism is necessary for the washing away of sins, it follows that it is necessary for salvation (1 Peter 3:21). Oh that these Gospel truths would be heralded and believed throughout the world!

**Billions Repent.** How wonderful it is that three thousand souls repented on the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts chapter two.

Imagine if you heard on the news that billions have repented and turned to God according to the teaching of scripture. Certainly the inhabitants of heaven would be rejoicing (Luke 15:7). God desires that all would repent (2 Peter 3:9). Sadly, it's not likely that billions will repent (Matthew 7:13-14), but we should certainly be doing our part to spread the Gospel in order to effect repentance and obedience in as many as we can (Mark 16:15; Acts 8:4; Romans 1:16). 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

# JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

Michael Pickford

We often hear from our denominational friends that we should never judge. They will often quote Matthew 7:1 (separated from its context) in order to prove their point. You might hear them quote “Judge not that you be not judged.” The idea behind “Judging” someone is really the idea of condemning someone (or some practice in their life). This being so, it is impossible for a child of God NOT to judge others. For example, if I preach that drunkards will end up in eternal punishment, I have judged all those who are drunkards. So can I not preach 1 Corinthians 6:9-11?

The problem is that the Bible never tells us we can never judge. In fact, the Lord said “*Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment*” (John 7:24). So what about these passages that tell us not to judge? Well, just read the entire context. For example, the section of passage quoted above telling us to “judge not” is found in Matthew 7:1-6. The context teaches against hypocritical judging. If I’m guilty of a sin I haven’t repented of and confessed, it would be wrong for me to condemn someone else. Jesus goes on in this passage to actually tell us to judge by telling us to remove the plank from our own eye so that we may see clearly to remove the speck from our brother’s eye. The idea of me removing the speck from my brother’s eye constitutes “judging” in this context. Romans 2:1 says “*Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.*” So the Bible tells us not to

judge when we ourselves have sins we have not properly dealt with.

The Lord tells us to judge righteous judgment. How is this done? It begins with the right standard. I can’t judge someone based on my own personal opinions of what is right or wrong. Nor can I judge someone based on the actions of another individual. It is also wrong to judge others based on traditions of men. The standard we use to judge others is the word of God. If I condemn someone for using filthy language, in essence it is the Lord judging them, because it is God’s word that I have used to condemn the one using filthy language (Colossians 3:8).

In reality, it is God Who judges everyone by His word. I can only be said to Judge someone in the sense that I point out to others their transgressions of the word of God. When that final judgment comes on the last day, the standard used will be the word of God. So this is obviously the standard I must use today. “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). Righteous judgment is done when the right standard is used. And Jesus commands us to judge in this way (John 7:24).

Understand that it is really unkind and unloving to refrain from “Judging” others. A failure to do so will contribute to them being lost eternally. Jesus taught “*Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him*” (Luke 17:3) ☺

## SERMON NOTES

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

### Raised With Christ

Introduction:

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

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

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Frank Anderson  
Reading: Colossians 3:1-10
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table:  
Lead.....Ben Green  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Chris Meade
- Closing Prayer.....Robert Johnson

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table.....Ben Green

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- 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!**

