

COMPETITION

Michael Pickford

Competition, competition! We're surrounded by it.

Competition is such a large part of our culture and it has taken many people over. It rules their lives.

Competition is good in sports, etc., but not so good in our personal lives. It becomes a divisive force among friends, family and brethren. Remember, we are not here as God's children to compete with one another. We are here to serve one another, to lift one another up. Love "does not seek its own" (1 Corinthians 13:5). "Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification" (Romans 15:2).

I don't want to make my kids better

than yours; I want to mold my kids into servants of the Lord, to bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). When my children reach adulthood, they won't need a competitor, they'll need a Savior!

I want my children to shine in life, and the only way to shine among others is to treat others as if they outshine you. "Let each of you look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4).

Don't let your competitive spirit become a stumbling block in your service to the Lord. In honor, give preference to others (Romans 12:10). 

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



- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.

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!



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

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FALSE TEACHERS

Michael Pickford

The Bible issues many warnings against false teachers. It is essential for us to take heed. We are told that false teachers are...

Greedy. The motive of the false teacher is greed. They desire power, a following, and/or money. Paul spoke of those who peddle the word of God (2 Corinthians 2:17). Peter said that "By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words" (2 Peter 2:3). Paul tells us that they "Suppose that godliness is a means of gain" and he goes on to speak of their desire to be rich (1 Timothy 6:5-9). False teachers are greedy, and they are...

Godless. You would think that this is axiomatic, that it goes without saying; but the Bible is careful to tell us that false teachers are in fact godless. We must be aware of this because the false teacher does not present himself as godless, but as godly. Jesus said they would present themselves as sheep, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves (Matthew 7:15). Paul said that they do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 16:17-18). Why tell us this? Because they claim to serve the Lord. They want to present themselves as humble, kind, knowledgeable servants of the Lord.

But this is all fleece. They will, by smooth words and flattering speech, deceive us if we're not careful (Romans 16:17-18).

If they present themselves as being so holy, how do I recognize them and protect myself? How do I peel back the fleece to reveal the monster inside? Jesus said we would know them by their fruits (Matthew 7:16). The false teacher may look like a sheep, but listen to what he says. A sheep makes a much different sound than a wolf. Listen to a man's teaching; compare it with God's word to make sure it checks out. John said "Test the spirits. Whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1). False teachers are greedy, godless and...

Growing. Paul wrote "But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13). We can certainly see this happening today. It is important for us to continue in the truth in order to protect ourselves (1 Timothy 3:14). Those who do not love the truth enough to study it daily and choose it over the appeal of religious error will be deceived and perish because they do not love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10) 

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www.defendthegospel.com

SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11



ASLEEP IN JESUS

Michael Pickford

Those who have fallen asleep (Died) in Jesus will one day be resurrected to meet the Lord in the air and remain with Him forever in eternal Glory (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). But consider another concept of falling asleep in Jesus. There's a story of a little boy who fell out of bed. His mom entered the room and asked what happened. The boy said "I fell asleep too close to where I got in." Sadly, this same statement applies to some who have gotten into Christ. One enters Christ through baptism (Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3), but some have fallen asleep too close to where they got in. Falling is inevitable.

To be asleep indicates inactivity. These are those who, after becoming children of God, fail to grow up in the Lord. We must "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). Some fail to do this. They're excited at first; they come up out of the "Watery grave of baptism" with a will and determination to serve the Lord with all they have. But by and by, this zeal is allowed to diminish and they simply take their seat in the pew and become stagnant.

These know they should read the Bible each day (Acts 17:11) but they are too busy with other matters; "Important matters." They know they should develop a close relationship with God through regular prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17), but there is so little time. They realize they should try to speak with their friends, neighbors, family, etc about the Lord (Acts 8:1-4);

Hebrews 5:12), but after all, no one will listen. They've heard they should be excited and diligent about coming to all the worship services (Hebrews 10:25), but so many other things fill their schedules. As a result, they stay right on the edge of Christ, just where they got in, and run the risk of falling out of Him.

A child of God can fall from grace (Galatians 5:4) in a number of ways. For example, one may give in to the pull of the world and leave the church. This could have been avoided by diligently growing in the Lord. Some fall because they are led away with religious error. This too could have been avoiding by growing in knowledge of the Lord. Then there are those who don't really leave the church, at least not physically. They attend the services, make their appearance, go through the necessary "rituals," fulfill the necessary "Commands," but they've really fallen asleep in the Lord. They are of the mindset of those who just want to do enough to get by. And Satan has deceived them into thinking they are being successful at this. Listen, the Bible still calls upon us to be zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).

One day you will be fall asleep (die); just make sure you don't fall asleep spiritually before you fall asleep physically. "*And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep...*" (Romans 13:11). May we all serve the Lord with a fervent spirit! ☀

Our Gospel Meeting was well attended throughout the week. A big thanks to everyone for your hard work to make this possible.

A Rough Road

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Sam Miller
Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:4-10
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....Lynn Buttrey
 - Serve.....Tony Jenkins
 - Serve.....Frank Anderson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- 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!