

LET GOD BE TRUE!

Michael Pickford

Paul said, “*Let God be true but every man a liar*” (Romans 3:4). This certainly applies to spiritual doctrine.

Some have discarded the importance and necessity of sound doctrine, claiming unity is more important. But while God does want us unified, He does not want us to cast aside His teaching to do so. He would prefer the division (Matthew 10:34).

God desires that we have the “*Unity of the Spirit*” (Ephesians 4:3). Inasmuch as the Spirit revealed the truth to us (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10), we achieve unity of the Spirit when we accept all the Bible says and agree upon it. Jesus prayed that we be

one just as He and the Father are one (John 17:20-23). Are Jesus and the Father in disagreement on several doctrinal issues? No! Then we shouldn’t be either. Paul plead with the Corinthians in the name of Jesus Christ... “*That you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*” (1 Corinthians 1:10). He told the Philippians to “*Walk by the same rule*” (3:16).

Can we understand the Bible alike? If we understand it at all, we will understand it alike, for God has only one message for us all – the Gospel! 🔍

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
- 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.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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HOW SWEET IT IS!

Michael Pickford

Most folks like sweet things. Consider some things that are called sweet in the Bible...

Scripture. “How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103). Sometimes we find ourselves with a relentless craving for something sweet. This is the way we should always feel about the sweet word of God. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). The word of God should be a part of our daily diet (Acts 17:11). Ignorance of God’s word always leads to destruction (Hosea 4:6). In the Bible we find saving words (Romans 1:16).

Sleep. If you will live your life according to God’s wisdom and sound discretion, “Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet” (Proverbs 3:23-24). The greatest tormentor of the human soul is a guilty conscience. How sweet Paul’s sleep must have been due to having lived his life “In all good conscience before God” (Acts 23:1). When we do wrong

and sin, our inner sense of justice pricks us until we make things right again. A Good conscience will give us sweet sleep in this life and sweet rest in the afterlife if we serve God accordingly. Do right and you will spend your nights on a soft pillow enjoying sweet sleep.

Speech. Have you ever spoken words that you knew cut right through the heart of the listener; bitter words that were meant to hurt? Maybe you’ve done this unintentionally, not having the wisdom of what to say at the right moment. Words have great power, and can cause great damage. But sweet words can heal, help, comfort and exhort. “The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips. Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones” (Proverbs 16:23-24). Too often folks use their tongues for gossip and slander, and then try to praise God. This is bitterness rather than sweetness. “Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?” (James 3:10-11). Let our speech always be with grace (Colossians 4:6). 🔍

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www.defendthegospel.com

EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY

Michael Pickford

In a sermon some time ago I attempted to make use of the old saying "Every nook and cranny." Unfortunately, it didn't come out quite right (Crook and Nanny?). But this phrase is one that we've heard and used most of our lives. I decided to look up some definitions and I have learned that a nook is defined as "A corner, as in a room," "Any secluded or obscure corner" -Dictionary.com. The same source defines a cranny as "a small, narrow opening in a wall, rock, etc.; chink; crevice; fissure." When one says he has searched every nook and cranny, he means that he has done a full, complete and exhaustive search of every possible place the missing item could be. This reminded me of some important spiritual lessons...

"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5). Most of us see the value in an occasional physical self examination. We sometimes look over our skin to make sure there are no suspicious looking moles or lesions. These self examinations could very well save our lives one day. But what about that essential spiritual examination; how are we doing there? We need to often look deep inside our spiritual lives, searching every nook and cranny, leaving no stone unturned, to be sure we are still remaining faithful. Are there unholy habits we have developed, such as neglecting prayer and daily Bible study? Perhaps we have allowed unholy dispositions to overtake us unawares, such as discontent, which leads to a complaining personality.

Maybe we have taken to exchanging bits of gossip, or having unholy thoughts. We need to clean house from time to time, purging out every nook and cranny.

But there is another spiritual lesson here. When God through Zephaniah was warning of the destruction that was coming, He said "I will search Jerusalem with lamps..." (Zephaniah 1:12). This means that God will search out every nook and cranny. No one will escape the punishment to come. But every punishment recorded in the Bible reflects that final great day of judgment. And on this day, God will also search out with lamps. No one will be able to hide from God on that day. We will face our Maker. The Lord Jesus Himself has been appointed as Judge (Acts 17:31), and He will judge us based upon the deeds done in the body, whether good or evil (2 Corinthians 5:10). In this judgment, He will leave no stone unturned as He searches out every nook and cranny of our soul. We became confident that we had successfully hidden that certain sin from the eyes of men, and perhaps we had, but the Lord will lay it bare "In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ" (Romans 2:16).

The very thought of this should cause us to tremble. And once we begin to tremble, this should prompt us to do that spiritual self examination. When we find these sins, we must repent and confess them and obtain forgiveness now while there is still time (1 John 1:9; Acts 8:22).

SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY DAILY!
Acts 17:11

Guilt

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....John Nelson
Reading: John 9:1-5
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....Chris Meade
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- 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!

