

## WE AFFECT OTHERS!

Michael Pickford

Raising a child has been teaching me a great many spiritual lessons. One lesson I have learned is the importance of walking properly, with others as an incentive.

For example, we have two long sets of stairs in our house. One leads up to the bedrooms from the living room. The other leads up to my office. Before our baby was born, I would often go tearing up and down these stairs, sometimes taking 3 or 4 steps at a time. Very often, I have fallen. It's amazing that I haven't broken anything.

But now that I usually have a baby in my arms when going up or down the stairs, I take a much different approach;

a much more mature approach. I walk very slowly, being aware of each step. I keep one hand on the rail, just in case my foot slips. I'm doing this to protect my boy. He and his well being are involved now! If I fall, he falls. How true this often is in the spiritual realm. If a faithful Christian falls, those who were influenced by them are often adversely affected, even to the point of falling themselves.

We should think of ourselves in the matter of remaining faithful, but remembering the spiritual well being of others, and our influence on them, should give us incentive too (Philippians 2:4). 

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

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

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### GOD IS... Michael Pickford

Note three things Paul wrote about God in 1 Timothy 1:17. God is...

**Infinite.** Paul said he is "Eternal." The Greek word is *aion*, and it speaks of perpetuity, eternity. It speaks to both beginning and end, that is, God has no beginning and He has no end. The name "I AM" speaks of this infinity (Exodus 3:13-14). *"The Lord shall endure forever..."* (Psalm 9:7). The glory of this is that we don't have to worry about our God dying. We die, but God has promised us eternity also. *"in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began..."* (Titus 1:2). If we obey the Gospel and remain faithful, we too will have eternal life in heaven (Acts 2:38; Revelation 2:10). God is...

**Immortal.** The Greek word is *aphthartos*. It speaks of the fact that God is undecaying, incorruptible. Some folks have a do practice idolatry. They worship man-made idols which are made of corruptible earthly material. They fade away and die. But our God, the true and living God, never decays. We worry about disease and death (Hebrews 9:27), but with God, there is none of this. And some day we will be with God living in a place that is incorruptible, reserved in the

heavens for us if we serve God faithfully til the end (1 Peter 1:3-5). In heaven, we won't have to worry about disease, decay and death; and there's no more mourning the loss of a loved one. How beautiful heaven must be! But we must drink of the living water; we must obey the Gospel (Hebrews 5:8-9). *"but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst."* It *"will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life"* (John 4:14). God is...

**Invisible.** The Greek word is *aoratos*. It speaks obviously of something that is invisible, something one cannot see with the eye. Jesus told us that *"God is Spirit"* (John 4:24). Some have trouble accepting the reality of God simply because they can't detect Him with the five senses. They can't see, hear, touch, taste or smell Him. But this is true of other things that they accept as real. They have never detected love with the five senses, yet they believe love is real. If we come upon a house in the woods, we believe there was a builder, even though the builder has been dead many years and cannot be detected by us using the five senses. *"For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God"* (Hebrews 3:4). 

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# WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO?

Michael Pickford

Recent current events remind us of the old phrase, "What's the world coming to?"

First, the Bible says this world is coming to an end. No, the world is not going to be ended by nuclear bombs, asteroids, global warming, etc. God Himself will destroy the world suddenly and quickly. "But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:7). The "Same word" points back to the "Word of God" in verse 5. It is the word of God that keeps the earth in existence. The world consists and exists by the will of God. (Colossians 1:16b-17; Revelation 4:11). This is why I don't worry about the world being destroyed by man (i.e. nuclear bombs, "Global warming," etc.). God's word is holding this world together and man does not have the ability to thwart the word of God! But one day God will act in destroying this world and this should give us all cause for concern, particularly in view of the next thing this world is coming to... judgment!

That's right; the Lord Jesus will judge the world. "Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). Notice some details: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a

great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up"... "Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat" (2 Peter 3:10, 12). Everything we know and see in this world will melt and be destroyed with fire from God. If you can lay your eyes on it, kiss it goodbye.

While we should not worry about man destroying the world, we should be concerned about the time God destroys the earth. "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness" (2 Peter 3:11). The answer is clear; we should be the manner of persons who obey God. Those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel will be punished with everlasting destruction. This will occur on the last day when Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels "In flaming fire" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). If you've heard the Gospel (Romans 10:17), you must believe Jesus to be the Son of God (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 2:38), confess your faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized to have your sins washed away that you might be saved (Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). This is how one obeys the Lord (Hebrews 5:8-9).

What's the world coming to? Destruction and judgment! Are you prepared for it? ☹️

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY DAILY!  
Acts 17:11

### The church of Christ

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Kenny Johnson  
Reading: John 9:1-5
- Song Leader.....Mallard
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Tony Jenkins  
Serve.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Ben Reagh
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

##### SUNDAY EVENING

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

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

##### 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

Home Bible Studies Available Upon Request!

**Obey Today!**