

## CLEANNES OF TEETH

Michael Pickford

In the Bible, the phrase “cleanness of teeth” refers to those without food. Famines and droughts produce “cleanness of teeth.” Folks eventually come to the point where they are hungering and thirsting for sustenance.

Many in our nation are going through a spiritual drought. Sure, we have an ample supply of Bibles, but how many are really reading and studying them? What about you? Are you suffering from spiritual “cleanness of teeth?” The Lord places a blessing upon those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Matthew 5:6). Does this describe you? Those in Berea were “noble-minded” because they “searched

the scriptures daily” (Acts 17:11). What foolish people we are when we clutter up our schedules so much that there is no time left for daily Bible study! God has made His word amply available to us. There’s no reason we should suffer from “cleanness of teeth.”

Death is the result of prolonged physical cleanness of teeth. The same is true spiritually. So I implore you to “Study to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). Avoid spiritual cleanness of teeth. 🔍

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](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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## HERESY

Michael Pickford

Heresy is an opinion or a doctrine at variance with established religious beliefs. Peter spoke of men who would secretly bring in destructive heresies (2 Peter 2:1). He’s obviously speaking of opinions or doctrines at variance with the Gospel of Christ (2 John 9). Note some dangers of heresy...

**Heresy Deceives.** In the passage above regarding those who teach heresies, Peter stated “*By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words*” (2 Peter 2:3). Those who teach heresies are often gifted men in the area of public speaking. By smooth words and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the simple (Romans 16:17-18). False teachers often know how to package their error to make it sound plausible, acceptable and even scriptural. Paul spoke of them as using “*Persuasive words*” to “*deceive*” (Colossians 2:4). We protect ourselves from being deceived by loving the truth of the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:10). Compare God’s word with what is taught to make sure it isn’t heresy (Acts 17:11).

**Heresy Denominates.** Heresy denominated the Jews of Jesus’ day. Because of differing viewpoints of the Old Law, the Jews had among them

various sects designated as Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots, etc.

The gross denominationalism which surrounds us today stems directly from heresy, with each denomination clinging to its particular brand of religious error. God condemns religious division. Jesus prayed that His disciples be unified (John 17:21-24), Paul commanded that the church at Corinth not denominate, but that they all speak the same thing (1 Corinthians 1:10-16). We are to be united on the truths of the Gospel. This is what Paul meant when he told us to endeavor “*to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” (Ephesians 4:3). The Spirit revealed the Gospel to us (1 Corinthians 2:10) so to be unified in the Spirit is to be unified upon that which the Spirit revealed.

**Heresy Dooms.** Various different denominations based on several differing belief systems are not a blessing from God as many suppose. Heresy is never spoken of positively in the New Testament. God repeatedly condemns both those who teach heresy and those who are deceived by it. Peter said heresies are “*Destructive*” (2 Peter 2:1-2) and Jesus said both the teachers and the followers of heresy would fall into the ditch (Matthew 15:14). 🔍

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## 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!**

# OUR RULE BOOK

Michael Pickford

In sporting events, teams are expected to compete according to the rules. The same is true in the Olympic games etc. If one does not compete according to the rules, he is disqualified.

The same is true in our spiritual lives. God expects us to worship and serve Him, but only as He has directed. *“And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules”* (2 Timothy 1:5).

It is possible for religious people to be disqualified and lose their souls. This was true of the religious leaders of Jesus’ day. *“These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, and in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men”* (Matthew 15:8-9). To add to, subtract from, or replace God’s laws with man-made traditions and laws is to violate God’s rules (2 John 9).

Paul wrote about the religious elite of his day, *“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God,*

*but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God”* (Romans 10:1-3). Notice that these folks were not only religious, but they were sincere in their religion; they had a zeal for God. One can be sincerely wrong and lose his soul.

God has provided for us the only rule book we need in our service to Him; it’s the doctrine of Christ, and it is complete (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Jude 3).

If we decide to serve and worship God our own way, then we are ignoring God’s way and seeking to establish our own righteousness. In so doing, we will lose our fellowship with God and our salvation. *“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.”* (2 John 9). Paul admonishes us *“...Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”* (Colossians 3:17).

Let’s serve God His way, according to His rule book, so we may not be disqualified. ☺

Lessons on Bible Authority Every  
Third Sunday Evening of 2012.

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### Types of Christ

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Ben Green  
Reading: Acts 3:22-26
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord’s Table:  
Lead.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Justin Pragel  
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Michael Pickford

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Justin Pragel
- Lord’s Table.....John Nelson

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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