

## A LOST CHILD

Michael Pickford

Our hearts crumble each time we hear about a child who has been separated from his parents, either by being lost or by abduction.

Parents will go to great lengths to find their child, sometimes accomplishing seemingly impossible tasks. What is their drive? It's simply this: Love for their child!

What about the Heavenly Father? Consider the parable of the prodigal son. The father longs deeply to find his lost (prodigal) son. What is the Lord trying to tell us? God will go to great lengths to save those who are lost! Even to the point of letting His unique, precious Son hang on a cruel, rugged

cross. What drove God to do such a thing? It's simply this: His love for us (John 3:16)! Even the vilest sinner is called out to by God's love (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Not only did we do nothing to deserve God's love, but we did everything to be undeserving of it. Nevertheless, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Don't reject God's great love. Return that love to Him by obeying Him (1 John 5:3). Regardless of how lost you may be; God wants you found. He wants you saved! ☞

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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## WHY PETER SLEPT

Michael Pickford

Acts 12:1-10 tells about how Herod murdered John's brother James and then imprisoned Peter intending to kill him as well after the Passover. Peter was kept in prison, heavily guarded. Now, could you go to sleep in such a situation? Peter did! Peter slept because of...

**Glorious Inner Peace.** Peter had seen the risen Lord with His own eyes (Acts 1:2-3). He knew that Jesus was God's Son and this was a true source for peace. There was a time when Peter feared death and denied the Lord as a result; but no more! In the very face of death Peter could now find peace knowing that his soul was secure in the Lord Jesus. He understood and believed the Lord's promise, "And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). "Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble" (Psalm 119:165). We too should live our lives with great inner peace, a peace that is kept charged through diligent prayer (Philippians 4:6-7).

**God's Irrefutable Presence.** Peter knew the Lord was with Him; so he slept. Again, he remembered the Lord's promise (Matthew 28:20). He had drawn near to God and knew the

Result would be God drawing near to him (James 4:8). During this most difficult and trying time he remembered God's promise, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). In the face of seemingly certain death, Peter could say in his heart, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1). We should never allow difficult circumstances to cause us to forget the loving presence of God.

**Godly Intercessory Prayer.** Peter was a believer in prayer. In fact, after he and other were beaten, threatened and released with a command not to speak in the Lord's name, Peter, along with other disciples, prayed for boldness (Acts 4:23-31). Peter knew the early church was a praying church. He no doubt suspected the church would be praying for him; indeed they were! "But constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church" (Acts 12:5). What an example of intercessory prayer! Are you praying for others? Are you comforted at the thought of other faithful saints praying for you?

While facing imminent death, Peter slept! Obey the Lord and live your life with similar peace. ☞

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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!**

# OUT ON A LIMB

Michael Pickford

Zacchaeus was a chief Tax collector who was longing to see Jesus (Luke 19:1-10). When Jesus was passing by, Zacchaeus couldn't see Him because he "was of short stature." He went ahead of the crowd and climbed up into a sycamore tree, so when Jesus passed by, he could see Him.

Zacchaeus literally went out on a limb to see Jesus! He went out on a limb metaphorically also. Here was a rich man of society who humbled himself, risking criticism from his peers, in order to see Jesus!

Do you refrain from religion because you are afraid your friends will criticize you, make fun of you, or even reject you? Zacchaeus was willing to go out on a limb to see Jesus.

Folks today need to be willing to take the same chances. After all, the most important thing isn't whether or not our friends, family, or co-workers accept us. The most important and most essential thing is for Jesus to accept us.

He taught that those who are not willing to forsake mother, father, son or daughter are not worthy of Him (Matthew 10:37-38).

There were some Jews who believed in Jesus but would not confess Him for fear of being put out of the synagogue (John 12:42). They weren't willing to go out on a limb for Jesus.

Jesus accepted and honored Zacchaeus; and Zacchaeus repented and became a follower of Him. You, too, must go out on a limb to see Jesus and accept His teachings.

Don't go out on a broken limb by embracing a false religion which follows things not taught in Christ's doctrine; but hear the Gospel, believe in Jesus, repent of your sins, and be baptized for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16) so you may be saved.

So, how about it? Do you want to see Jesus? The Tree's there, start climbing! Go out on a limb! 🗝

Remember Our Singing Practice  
Tonight at 5:00

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

### This Church Should Be...

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Frank Anderson  
Reading: Matthew 15:7-14
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Tony Jenkins

##### SUNDAY EVENING

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

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

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!**