


## SPIRITUAL WORK ETHIC

Michael Pickford

In another article we examined the biblical concept of a good work ethic; and the importance of one being a hard worker in this earthly realm. But more importantly, God has enjoined upon us a good work ethic in spiritual matters.

Paul informs us that God has created us *“In Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10). Add to this Titus 2:14 where Paul, in speaking of Christ, said *“Who gave Himself for us, that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”* As the song says, *“There is much to do there’s*

*work on every hand.”* Many passages get specific as to what we as individual Christians should be doing, including visiting the sick and imprisoned, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, assisting widows and orphans, etc (Matthew 25:35-37; James 1:27, etc). But we also need song leaders, teachers, leaders of prayers, etc.

The single most important work we can do for others is to share with them the Gospel (Romans 1:16). Jesus said He healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf, but most importantly, He said *“The poor have the Gospel preached to them”* (Matthew 9:5-6). 

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, 4:30 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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## BOOK OF SPIRITUAL SUCCESS

Michael Pickford

The shelves of bookstores are lined with various types of “Success” books. You can read about how to be successful in finances, relationships, on the job, or in your favorite sport. But the most essential area of life in which we should seek success is in our spiritual lives. The Bible, of course, is God’s success book in this area; but consider the first chapter of the book of Joshua specifically. There are three essential ingredients given here for spiritual success...

**Be Strong.** *“Be strong and of good courage”* (Joshua 1:6). *“Only be strong and very courageous”* (vs. 7). *“Be strong and of good courage”* (vs. 9). While we do not war against flesh and blood, we are in a spiritual battle. A spiritual war! (2 Corinthians 10:3-4). Satan is relentless and clever in his means and methods, so we must keep up our strength and courage in order to find success. God has provided us with the spiritual armor we need to wield off all of Satan’s fiery darts (Ephesians 6:11-18); but before giving us this panoply, Paul said *“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might”* (Ephesians 6:10). *“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong”* (1 Corinthians 16:13).

**Be Strict.** *“...that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go”* (Joshua 1:7). Regarding the book of the Law, verse 8 states, *“That you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”* God means what He says and Says what He means. He feels the same way about the perfect law of liberty, the New Testament, Christ’s Gospel! (James 1:25). John tells us that *“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God...”* (2 John 9). That’s strict! Religions of our day want to minimize obedience, or do away with it altogether, but God does not do so. He still means what He wrote in these passages (see also Revelation 22:18-19; Hebrews 5:8-9; Colossians 3:17; Matthew 7:21-23).

**Be Sustained.** *“Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”* (Joshua 1:9). God sustains us through prayer (Psalm 138:3), through His word (Psalm 119:50), and through His people (Hebrews 3:12-13). 

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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!**

# WORK ETHIC

Michael Pickford

One of the things I often think about as a new parent is how to properly instill a good work ethic into my child. This is something my dad did for me and I'm interested in doing it for my child as well. I've noticed that many children are brought up with more emphasis on "Play" than on work. Entertainment (TV, Movies, Games, etc.) has a proper place in our lives, and those of our children; but too much emphasis on these things can damage a child's work ethic.

Our Father in heaven has always enjoined upon His children a good, strong work ethic. *"The soul of the lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich"* (Proverbs 13:4). This is one of a host of proverbs that address the concept of hard work as opposed to slothfulness. Proverbs 10:4; 12:24; 21:5 all address this issue. Proverbs 19:15 says *"Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger"* (Proverbs 19:15).

The New Testament is not silent on this issue. Paul wrote, *"For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat"* (2 Thessalonians 3:10). In Ephesians 4:28, we are commanded to find an honorable job so that we might have something to give those who have need. But it's more than just having a job, one must be a hard working employee, laboring as if the Lord Himself were his boss (Colossians 3:22-24).

In addition to an over-immersion of

entertainment, there are other pitfalls when discussing a good work ethic. One of these is gambling. Gambling violates the golden rule of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you (Matthew 7:12). It also violates the fair compensation concept in that the gambler is seeking to take something from someone else without giving them anything in return. This is why many refer to gambling as "Stealing by consent." But what's worse, gambling instills into our youth the concept of getting something for nothing. This is one of the great woes of legalizing a State lottery.

Another pitfall is the danger of overworking. Some are known as "Workaholics." These are those who actually spend too much time in the workplace, causing them to neglect other important responsibilities in life; such as their wife and children. The Bible offers warnings for this as well; *"Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease!"* (Proverbs 23:4). Other translations of this verse bear out the essential meaning to include the concept of making riches your goal when working. Those who work just because they want to be rich will work too much and neglect other essential areas of their lives.

May God grant us wisdom in teaching our children the proper balance between overworking and under-working that would be pleasing to God, and beneficial to them throughout life. 🔍

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

Introduction:

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Sam Miller  
Reading: 2 Peter 1:1-4
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Opening Prayer.....Justin Prangel
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....Tony Jenkins  
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Ben Reagh

#### SUNDAY EVENING

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

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- 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!