

## SPIRITUAL SPELL CHECK?

Michael Pickford

Word processing programs often possess a setting that, when engaged, automatically corrects “Errors” as you type. Unfortunately, I find it sometimes automatically “Correcting” the spelling in names, etc., leading to a misspelled name, or to the inserting of a word other than what I intended to use. I recommend disabling this function.

Historically, some have taught and defended a sort of spiritual spell check. They have erroneously taught from 1 John 1:7-9 that the blood of Christ cleanses our sins even while we are in the process of committing them. John wrote, “*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with*

*one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7). Divorced from its context, the verse seems to indicate perhaps a sort of spiritual spell check. But one must read on. John went on to say that in order to receive this cleansing we must “*Confess our sins*” (vs. 9).

Simon wasn’t automatically forgiven of his sin as he was committing it; he was commanded to repent (Acts 8:22). The idea of 1 John 1:7 is that if we are truly walking in the light, then when we sin, we will do what the light (Gospel) requires – repent, confess and ask for forgiveness. ☞

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, 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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### AAA SERVICE

Michael Pickford

I’ve heard about AAA service and ratings all my life, but I can’t seem to find out exactly what the three A’s stand for, other than the fact that they indicate a very high quality of service. As Christians, we are servants in the kingdom of the Lord. This service should be of the highest quality. Our service in the Lord should be...

**Active.** When I was managing fast food restaurants several years ago, I would occasionally encounter an employee who didn’t seem so enthusiastic about his work. I would sometimes ask, “Do you work here or are you just an employee?” We enter Christ by way of baptism (Galatians 3:26-27), but the concept is that we have entered into active service. We are to be on active duty. Paul reminds us that we have been created in Christ for good works, and that we must be zealous for them (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14). As the old song says, “There is much to do there’s work on every hand.” Inactive employees fail to move up the ladder of success, and they often lose their jobs altogether. Inactive saints are in jeopardy of losing their good standing with Christ (Matthew 25:41-46). Some Christians want to get bossy when they should be

getting busy.

**Affectionate.** The Bible doesn’t just emphasize the fact that we are to be workers in the kingdom, but also points out the necessity of proper motive. Paul wrote, “*And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing*” (1 Corinthians 13:3). Our active deeds in the Lord and for the Lord should be motivated by love – ideally for both the Lord and for the one(s) we are helping. The Pharisees were motivated by the thought that they might receive praise from others. They did their good deeds hoping others would say to them “Oh what a good man you are,” “How kind you are; how righteous, how giving.” Jesus said “*But all their works they do to be seen by men*” (Matthew 23:5). We should do the good works, but we need to develop the proper motive.

**Altruistic.** Unselfish, sacrificial service. Sometimes it hurts to give but we should give till it hurts. Jesus described the ultimate act of service when He said “*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends*” (John 15:13). If we’re truly willing to do this, all other tasks we accomplish in the Lord becomes easy. ☞

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# ONE GOOD MEMORY

Michael Pickford

We all have warm memories that take us back to certain happy times of childhood. It may be a day at the park, an outing from school, or a cool spring night cuddled up by the campfire surrounded by friends and family. Whatever the case, these memories sometimes add inexplicable pleasure to our quiet times of relaxation.

Memories can be very powerful. It's amazing how one memory can change or shape our destiny. In his novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, Dostoevski has one of his characters say: "You must know that there is nothing higher or stronger and more wholesome and good for life in the future than some good memory, preserved from childhood, or home. People talk to you a great deal about your education, but some good, sacred memory, preserved from childhood, is perhaps the best education. If a man carries many such memories with him into life, he is safe to the end of his days, and if one has only one good memory left in one's heart, even that may sometimes be the means of saving him."

This last statement is so true when it comes to our spiritual salvation. There are some Christians who seem to have forgotten that they have been transformed into new creatures, and as such, are to walk new, different kinds of lives (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:4). To go back and live like the world; to get entangled again in the sins which held us prisoner before we came to Christ; To digress once again into the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes

and the pride of life is to completely forget that feeling of release we basked in when we came up out of that watery grave of baptism.

That one great memory of our initial salvation can keep us going strong as faithful Christians. It can help us to add to our faith virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love (2 Peter 1:5-7). To fail to grow in these things is to become unfruitful and useless in the kingdom of God. It is to be cut off from our salvation in Christ and thrown into the fires of the rubbish of the lost. Peter said forcefully, "*For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his old sins*" (2 Peter 1:9).

Did you notice those key words? He has "**forgotten**" that he was cleansed from his old sins. Keep that wonderful memory in your heart of the day you were cleansed. And always live in such a way that your actions demonstrate and prove that you still have that one memory burning in your heart. That one memory burning in your heart, that memory of joy at your entrance into the kingdom through baptism, may very well be the means of saving you! "*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God*" (Colossians 3:1). If you remember nothing else, always remember that you were cleansed from your old sins by the precious blood of Christ. ☺

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### Independence Day

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Ben Reagh  
Reading: Galatians 5:1-6
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Kenny Todd  
Serve.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Todd

##### 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!**