

Pearls from Proverbs



By Michael Pickford

Defending Truth

“A righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well.” -Proverbs 25:26

Allowing False teachers to go unchecked and unexposed is like poisoning the water supply of the city. Some have coward away from preaching the tough sermons that expose specific false doctrines for fear of “Offending” someone. Consequently their listeners become ill prepared when the deceivers come knocking.

Delivering Truth

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.” -Proverbs 11:30

All of the wise things we might do in life will be darkened by the foolish decision to keep the soul saving Gospel of Christ to ourselves (Romans 1:16). God is not willing that any should perish, desiring that all be saved (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4). Wisdom demands that we *“Be imitators of God”* and deliver the truth to a lost world.

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!



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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” -Acts 17:11

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SIMON

Michael Pickford

Acts 8 tells of the conversion of a man named Simon. He was previously a deceiver, but he believed the preaching of Philip and was baptized (Acts 8:13). Let's learn some valuable lessons from Simon's conversion as we consider...

HIS FAITH. Simon received his faith through the preaching of the Gospel by Philip (vs 12-13). Faith isn't miraculously zapped into our hearts through some unique “better felt than told” life experience. *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17). This is why the Lord commanded His disciples to go into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). Consider not only how Simon received his faith, but also how he responded to it. Verse 13 tells us that his response was to be baptized. His was an obedient faith, the only kind that saves (Hebrews 5:8-9). He was baptized because baptism is essential for the washing away of sins and salvation (Acts 22:16; Mk. 16:16).

HIS FALL. When Simon observed the ability the apostles had to lay hands on saints and impart to them miraculous spiritual gifts, he sinned by offering to buy this ability from them (vs 18-20). It's interesting that Peter

told Simon he would *“Perish”* with his money! A Christian who will perish? Yes indeed! Don't be deceived by the popular doctrine that teaches that once one becomes a child of God he can never so sin as to lose his salvation. Calvin's version of the security of the believer that promotes the *“Once saved always saved”* mentality is both wrong and reckless. Reckless because it encourages Christians to go on leading sinful lives thinking they can't be lost. It's wrong because Simon found himself lost after having become a Christian. It's also wrong because so many other passages refute the notion. One can Fall from grace (Galatians 5:4). When this happens, and someone turns him back, a soul is saved from death, indicating that the fallen soul was lost. James 5:19-20 is clear and irrefutable on this point!

HIS FORGIVENESS. When a Christian sins, he must repent of his sin, confess it, and ask for God's forgiveness. This is what Peter told Simon to do (vs 22-24). In writing to Christians, John stated in 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* Let's value these simple and essential truths gleaned from Simon. 🔍

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www.defendthegospel.com

A CHRISTIAN & SELF DEFENSE

Aaron Erhardt

We live in an increasingly dangerous society. Recent examples of this include the movie theater shooting in Colorado, the shopping mall shooting in Oregon, and the elementary school shooting in Connecticut. Fox News reports that 6 of the 12 deadliest shootings in American history have occurred since 2007. This raises an important question: "Can a Christian bear arms for self-defense?"

(Matthew 5:39). However, we must understand that Jesus was dealing with minor insults and offenses in that text, not life-threatening situations.

Though Peter was rebuked for misusing his sword when Jesus was arrested, that does not negate the fact that he was armed that evening (John 18:10). How then can any say that such is sinful today?

When we speak of self-defense, we are talking about the use of lethal force to protect oneself from serious harm. It is much different than premeditated killing, which is clearly condemned (Romans 13:9).

There is an interesting passage in the Old Law that may shed some light on how God views a man defending his home from nightly intruders. It says, "If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him" (Exodus 22:2). Hence, he would be justified in his use of deadly force (also see Matthew 24:43).

The best answer to this question is found in Luke 22:36. In that text, Jesus instructed the disciples to buy swords for protection. Hence, we have divine approval for a Christian to bear arms and practice self-defense.

If it violates a person's conscience to own firearms or other lethal weapons, then they should not do so. However, it is not sinful for a Christian to bear arms and practice self-defense. -

Some have a hard time reconciling the above passage with what the Lord taught about turning the other cheek

"Husbands, love your wives"

-Ephesians 5:25

SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY DAILY!
Acts 17:11

Authority, Three Decisive Verses

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Sam Miller
Reading: Matthew 7:21-23
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Reagh
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- 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!