

# Pearls from Proverbs

By Michael Pickford

## Returning Evil

*“Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him.”*

-Proverbs 26:4

If a fool is opposing our ideas and teaching, not with sound arguments, but with personal attacks, furious foul language, et al, we are not to answer him using the same base tactics. If we do, we are now no different than him, and we weaken the message we are trying to present. Do not return evil for evil, *“lest you also be like him.”*

## Refuting Error

*“Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes.”*

-Proverbs 26:5

On the other hand, we should answer error with sound reasoning, especially religious error, lest our silence empower the false teacher and promote his mistaken beliefs. He would *“Be wise in his own eyes.”* Instead, we should speak the truth in love and handily expose the error for the benefit of both him and other listeners.

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!**



# SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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## SIN

Michael Pickford

In our nation it seems that the only sin is to call sin sin! Some have called on preachers to water down sin and to refrain from identifying sin by name for fear of offending some. But the Bible is very clear about the destructive nature of sin. It needs to be identified and exposed. The Bible defines sin as *“Lawlessness”* and *“Unrighteousness”* (1 John 3:4; 5:17). Among other things, sin...

**DIVIDES SPIRITUALLY.** Sin separates people from God. *“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you”* (Isaiah 59:2). Sin separated God from man in the garden of Eden, sin separated Israel from God, and sin continues to separate men from their Creator. (2 John 9). Sin also separates between brethren. Those who have chosen to walk no longer in the ways of Christ have separated themselves from God, and it is commanded that the church withdraw themselves from the unrepentant sinner (2 Thessalonians 3:6). Sin also...

**DESTROYS SOULS.** Fire and time can destroy your possessions, sickness and death can destroy your body, but sin condemns your soul to eternal destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

God said through Ezekiel, *“The soul who sins shall die.”* Paul wrote, *“for the wages of sin is death”* (Romans 6:23). James taught, *“...sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death”* (James 1:15). Who needs more incentive to overcome temptation and avoid sin? Satan tries to make sin seem harmless, innocent, and even profitable. Indeed, sin does offer temporal pleasure, but its ultimate consequence is the eternal destruction of the soul in flaming fire (Hebrews 11:25). The temporary, empty pleasure isn't worth it! Fortunately, God offers forgiveness and eternal life to those who repent and obey (Acts 2:38; Hebrews 5:8-9). Sin also...

**DEBILITATES SOCIETY.** Think about the destruction sin brought on Sodom and Gomorrah for their *“Very grave”* sin (Genesis 18:20). Consider the sinful society God rejected in Romans 1:18-32. Study their transgressions and pray for our own nation. Remember the wise words of Proverbs 14:34, *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”* Over time America has strayed further away from godly principles and is more and more becoming a nation that has forgotten God. It's because of sin. Pray! ☞

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# IS IT WRONG TO DEBATE?

Aaron Erhardt

It is not unusual to hear someone say that it is wrong to debate. I most often hear this from false teachers who do not want to be exposed, though others make this argument as well.

Those who make this argument appeal to passages like Romans 1:29 in the KJV. It condemns "debate" among other things. However, that word (*eridos*) refers to malicious feuding that is hateful and harmful. Some translations say "bickering," "fighting," and "quarreling." That does not apply to cordial discussions in which opposing views are considered. (When the KJV was first published, "debate" was an ugly word that carried the idea of violent disputing. It denoted something entirely

different than modern debates).

The book of Acts is filled with debates. We read that Paul debated in Jerusalem (9:29, NIV), in Antioch (15:2, NIV), and in Athens (17:18, NIV). We are also told that he was "arguing persuasively" in Ephesus (19:8, NIV). Likewise, Apollos "vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate" in Achaia (18:28). Obviously, the early saints did not think it was wrong to debate.

Debates are an expedient way to "test the spirits" (1 John 4:1) and to "contend for the faith" (Jude 3). That is because they permit both sides of a position to be considered. When done in the right spirit, it is not wrong to debate. -

*"Set your mind on things above"*

-Colossians 3:2

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### Inspired Scriptures

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Robert Johnson  
Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Reagh
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table.....John Nelson

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

##### 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!**