

## Pearls from Proverbs

By Michael Pickford

### Searching For Dirt

*"An ungodly man digs up evil."*

-Proverbs 16:27a

Some people are into investigative reporting. That is, they are always on the lookout for some dirt on someone. They're just looking for a tidbit of gossip. They'll work the phones, knock on some doors, scour Facebook and other social medias, whatever it takes to find out something bad about someone. They are busybodies, always sticking their noses where they don't belong. Oh that we would try to look for good in others and highlight that!

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!**

### Sharing The Dirt

*"And it is on his lips like a burning fire."*

-Proverbs 16:27b

Once they have found some dirt on someone they can't wait to tell someone else. They view themselves as some type of hero for being the one to tell others... "Guess what so-and-so did, said." Their meddling often leads to rifts in the most intimate of relationships (Proverbs 16:28). When you find sin in someone, talk to them, not others, and pray for their repentance (Luke 17:3). Don't seek joy from others' shortcomings (1 Cor. 13:6).



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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*"They...searched the scriptures daily..."* -Acts 17:11

Volume 10, Number 09

March 02, 2014

### Focus

Michael Pickford

Regardless of the realm under consideration there are always problems when things are out of focus. Our spiritual focus is of primary importance (Colossians 3:1-2; Matthew 6:33). Many things can cause us to lose our focus on the Lord and on His kingdom...

**POSSESSIONS.** Jesus warned against trying to lay up treasures on earth. He insisted that we focus on treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:22-23). He went on to discuss the good (healthy) eye and the bad (Unhealthy) eye. When the physical eye is sick it loses its focus and a distorted view of things is the result. Our spiritual eye is bad when we begin to place more value on things that are temporary than on things eternal. Many Christians have been deceived by groups that promote the "Millionaire mindset." But even those who don't go this far often neglect spiritual matters due to overworking for perishable things. When "Getting rich" becomes our purpose for working our sight is out of focus and we need to "Cease" (Proverbs 23:4). Many have experienced great problems in life due to their pursuit of the "Almighty dollar," and some have even strayed

from the faith (1 Timothy 6:10). We must learn to be content with what God has blessed us with (1 Timothy 6:6) and remember that *"One's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses"* (Luke 12:15b).

**PURSUIITS.** Hobbies, vacations, children's ball teams (and other activities) – these are all fine if we don't allow them to interfere with the tremendous amount of work we should be doing in the Lord's kingdom. Paul crucified himself for the cause of Christ; so must we (Galatians 2:20). Being a Christian requires tremendous sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2). Are we willing to take the shears to our activities and devote more time to developing ourselves spiritually?

**PROBLEMS.** Some lose their focus due to health problems, tragedies, or even difficulties that arise because of their being a Christian (Matthew 13:21). Paul continued to be highly productive in the kingdom because he refused to focus on his problems and setbacks while focusing rather on the invisible, eternal rewards awaiting him (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). The Lord endured the cross *"For the joy that was set before Him"* (Hebrews 12:2). If we want heaven, we must focus! 🔍

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# EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON

Greg Gwin

We often hear people use the expression: "Everything happens for a reason." This saying is the modern, New Age version of the old religious saying: "It's God's will." Is this true? Is there a reason for everything? Does God's will regulate all things?

First, some things happen because the Lord has placed certain 'natural' laws in place that cannot be violated without predictable results. For example: a man broke his leg. Why? What was the reason? He stepped off of a ladder and the 'law of gravity' prevailed. In this sense, we can understand and acknowledge that this 'happened for a reason,' though we doubt that this is what the New Age crowd means when they use that expression.

But, we must essentially protest the claim that God has totally predestined our lives, or that His 'will' controls every aspect of our existence. The Scriptures make it clear that God gives man choice. Joshua's famous statement makes this abundantly clear: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Joshua 24:15). We know that the invitation for salvation is open to all, but each one must decide: "The Spirit and the bride say, Come . . . and whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17). So, obviously, God has not predestined everything, else these

statements about our freedom to choose would be senseless.

Further, we know that some things do, in fact, happen as a consequence of the choices God allows us to make. Good choices typically bring good outcomes, and bad choices produce bad ones. Many are suffering the ill effects of things they chose to do or not do, while others are enjoying the benefits of wise selections. Moses advised the Israelites: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19). To put it simply, choices have consequences. And while this is a definite rule of God, the specifics are determined by us and our free will, not His.

Finally, we must note that there is not always a clear, one-to-one corollary to be seen in every event in our lives. Sometimes bad things happen to good people, and vice versa. Why? Frequently we can 'see' it, but often we cannot answer, other than to lay it to the reality of living in this present world with its physical suffering and death. We may not be able to explain them, but we can use even the 'bad things' to provoke us to do what is right and just – as we seek for a world where such will never happen again (2 Peter 3:13). -

Via <http://www.collegevuechurch.com>

## SERMON NOTES

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

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

### Attendance

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### **DUTY LIST...**

##### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Ben Reagh  
Reading: Matthew 5:13-16
- 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.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Todd

##### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

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

##### **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!**