

## EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING IT

Michael Pickford

The title is a statement often heard from an immature child while trying to convince his parents to allow him to do something they know he shouldn't do. Sadly, it's also the reasoning of many immature children of God. "Everyone else is going to that must see R rated movie." "Everyone else is wearing this revealing type of immodest clothing." "Everyone else is fudging a bit on their taxes."

God told His people long ago, "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil" (Exodus 23:2). When everyone else was bowing down to the golden image king Nebuchadnezzar had built and erected, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-

Nego refused to do so. The result was that they were cast into the Fiery furnace, but the Lord was with them (Daniel 3).

We must very careful not to allow ourselves to be conformed to what everyone else in the wicked world is doing (Romans 12:1-2). God doesn't want us to be different just for the sake of being different. The problem is, those in the world will do wickedness, but we are to be holy, so we will be different. My mom used to say, "What if everyone else jumped off a bridge?"

Only the righteous will find eternal life in heaven, everyone else is destined to eternal punishment (John 5:29). 

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.

## 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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## PAUL & BAPTISM

Michael Pickford

Many today deny the necessity of baptism for salvation, yet they claim that Paul the apostle was a true disciple of Christ and inspired of the Holy Spirit. How did Paul feel about baptism? Would denominations today welcome his preaching, writing, and personal testimony? Let's Observe what Paul ....

**PRACTICED.** If Paul could give his "Personal testimony" in churches today regarding how he got saved, what would he say? Well, we're told that on the road to Damascus the Lord commanded him to go into the city and there he would be told what he "Must do" (Acts 9:6). When Paul was later recounting his conversion (Personal testimony?) he related what Ananias told him to do, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Ananias was sent by the Lord with this message (Acts 9:10-17). It was at the point of baptism that the blood of Christ washed away Paul's sins. Now consider what Paul...

**PENNED.** Paul's writings were inspired of God, and he himself recognized his writings as "The commandments of the Lord" (1

Corinthians 14:37). So we must take what he penned seriously. In 2 Timothy 2:10 Paul tells us that "Salvation" is "In Christ Jesus." This means that in order to receive salvation, one must get into Christ. How? Well, Paul's writings reveal this answer as well, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). How could it be any clearer? He also reminded the Romans that they were "Baptized into Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:3). Now consider what Paul...

**PRESCRIBED.** To prescribe is to stipulate action to be taken. Paul taught the same thing in every church, so he taught baptism as a necessity for salvation in every church as we have seen from the passages above. He sent Timothy to the Corinthians to remind them of his ways and teachings in Christ (1 Corinthians 4:17). Timothy was to commit to others the things Paul taught him (2 Timothy 2:1-2). Baptism then was included in the things Paul taught Timothy, and therefore Timothy was to include baptism for salvation as part of what he committed to others, which they were to then teach to others. All of this is in accordance with the message of the great commission, which included baptism (Mark 16:15-16). 

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## DYING WELL

Michael Pickford

Many years ago my doctor made an interesting statement to me. He told me that over the years he had, sadly, witnessed many deaths. He said "Those who die in light of the Christian religion die in a much different way."

We will occasionally hear someone make the statement of one deceased, "He died well." What does it really mean to die well? Perhaps if one died in service to his country, he died well. Perhaps if someone gave his life to save another, he died well. Perhaps if someone died with little pain or suffering, he died well. In my estimation, none of these ways to die really captures the true idea of dying well.

The Bible says "*It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment*" (Hebrews 9:27). Regardless of what it means to die well in the eyes of many, the bible teaches that the only way to truly die well is to die in Christ. Paul wrote, "*But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope*" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). This verse alone teaches us that Christians do die much differently than those in the world. We die with hope! Our hope is that we will be in eternal glory when we pass from this life. In the context of the above passage, Paul is teaching that those who die in Christ have not ceased to exist; they will be glorified with Christ.

Death is always a sad occasion, but when the deceased is a child of God, that sadness is swallowed up in joy. For, "*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them*" (Revelation 14:13). To die well means to die in Christ, in the Lord! Are you in Christ? Are you prepared to die well? (Galatians 3:26,27; Romans 6:1-6). 🔍

"...We know Him,  
if we keep His  
commandments!"

-1 John 2:3

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### What's Missing in Heaven?

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Sam Miller  
Reading: Psalm 55:4-8
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....Frank Anderson  
Serve.....
- Closing Prayer.....Ben Reagh

##### SUNDAY EVENING

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

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

**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!**