

## A SECOND CHANCE?

Michael Pickford

Those who hold to the doctrine of Premillennialism, among others, believe that after death some who are lost will get a second chance to be saved. What does the Bible say?

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad”* (2 Corinthians 5:10). Paul said here that each one will be judged by what he has done while *“In the body.”* At death, the spirit separates from the body (James 2:26). If judgment is based on things done in the body, then once we die and our spirit leaves the body, there cannot be a

second chance after death.

*“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Corinthians 6:2). Paul wasn’t speaking of the day he wrote that epistle, he was speaking of an age, the gospel age. These are the *“Last days”* (Hebrews 1:2). If this is the last days, and this is the time to get saved, then there will be no other age in which we can get saved. Now is the time!

*“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”* (Hebrews 9:27). It doesn’t say that after death there will be a second chance. After death is the judgment based on things done in the body. 🔍

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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## FOR OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH

Michael Pickford

Paul concludes the book of Romans by reminding his readers that the very purpose of the Gospel is to lead people to obedience (Read Romans 16:25-26). *“The faith”* is a phrase often used to speak of the Gospel, as it is in this context. Consider the Gospel and its purpose in leading folks to obedience....

THE GOSPEL REVEALED *“For obedience to the faith.”* Paul speaks here of the *“Mystery”* being revealed – *“Made manifest”* (Romans 16:25-26). In the New testament the Gospel is often referred to as a *“Mystery”* because it was such for so long. But as in this context, the many other passages that refer to the Gospel as a mystery emphasize that it is no longer such, but has now been revealed (i.e. Ephesians 3:3; Colossians 1:26). God revealed the Gospel to the world not just to be believed, but to be obeyed, *“For obedience to the faith”* (Romans 16:26). Many believe that Paul the book of Romans in order to debunk and ridicule the idea that one must obey in order to be saved. If that is true, isn’t it strange that he concludes the book by insisting that the purpose of the Gospel is to lead people to obedience?

THE GOSPEL RELAYED *“For obedience to the faith.”* Paul mentioned the Gospel and *“The preaching of Jesus Christ”* (Vs 25). That preaching was according to what the *“Everlasting God”* revealed, and the purpose of relaying this message on to others was *“For the obedience to the faith.”* I’m reminded of Acts 6:7 where we’re told that *“The word of God spread”* (was relayed to others) and the result was that many of the priests were *“Obedient to the faith.”* Jesus is the Author of eternal salvation, but only those who *“Obey”* will receive this salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9). Not only did Paul end the book of Romans by teaching the necessity of obedience, but he began the book speaking of *“Obedience to the faith”* (Romans 1:5). How can anyone believe that Paul opposed the concept of obedience for salvation in the book of Romans?...

THE GOSPEL RIDICULED *“For obedience to the faith.”* Many religious people of our day oppose and ridicule the Gospel truth that obedience is necessary for salvation. They cling to the *“Faith only”* doctrine in spite of Romans 16:25-27. Sadly, *“They have not all obeyed the Gospel”* (Romans 10:16). 🔍

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# WHAT IS "LENT"?

Michael Pickford

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a 40 day period of fasting (Sundays not included) preceding "Easter." It is common for an officiant in the church to place a cross-shaped mixture of ashes and oil (sometimes Holy Water is used) on the forehead of church members where it often remains throughout the entirety of Ash Wednesday.

The Lenten season began around 1000 AD in the Catholic Church but many protestant denominations have also taken up the practice (Consider Matthew 15:8-9). The Bible says nothing about "Ash Wednesday" or the "Lenten season." *"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God..."* (2 John 9). We are only to practice those things which are authorized in Christ's doctrine (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11, etc). Churches practicing Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season are in violation of the doctrine of Christ.

It is common for those who observe the Lenten season to "give up" something for the 40 days (40 days taken from Jesus' 40 day fast in the wilderness). Things known to be given up by folks during this time include cigarettes, drinking, foul language, gambling, fornication, and

dance clubbing. Remember, this is a commitment to give these things up only during the forty days of Lent. But the Bible calls upon Christians to give up sinful things forever! Many of these things are works of the flesh which will bar one from the kingdom of heaven (Galatians 5:19-21). Do they really think God is pleased if they only commit to giving them up for 40 days in a year?

Lent is associated with "Fat Tuesday" and the Mardi Gras celebration; which is nothing more than a drunken lascivious festival in which people freely "Let themselves go" to practice any immoral activity they can think of. The idea is basically to get it out of one's system in order to prepare for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the 40 days of spiritual discipline (Lent). But they do so only to repeat the process the next year. Shameful! The command to *"Abhor what is evil"* (Romans 12:9) is to be observed every minute of every day in the life of a true saint. The grace of God teaches us that we should deny ungodliness and worldly lust (Titus 2:12) at all times, not just 40 days a year. The entirety of our lives should be devoted to living *"soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age"* (Titus 2:12). ☞

*"Be hospitable to one another without grumbling"*

- 1 Peter 4:9

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### The Christian's Mind

Introduction:

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

##### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Kenny Todd
- Bible Reading by.....Sam Miller  
Reading: 1 Peter 4:1-6
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

##### **SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....John Nelson

##### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Invitation.....Ben Green

##### **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!**