

## EYEING WORTHLESS THINGS

Michael Pickford

“Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways” (Psalm 119:37-ESV).

Wow! I can think of a lot of worthless things in our society that threaten to distract us from our faithful service to the Lord. Whether it’s entertainment (even the clean stuff), certain possessions, worldly pleasure, beauty, finery, or anything that is vain, empty, and transitory. The Psalmist isn’t speaking of merely looking at these things with our eyes, he’s speaking of a desire for them that gives in to pursuit. The inherently evil things will condemn us because they are forbidden. The things that are not

inherently evil can eat up our time in such a way as to cause us to neglect daily Bible study, prayer, or even attending all the assemblies. A friend used to say that TV can send us to hell in two ways: (1) By watching the bad stuff, or, (2) By spending too much time watching the clean stuff. Everyone needs entertainment and winding down time, but don’t get too caught up in it.

Has something in your life been distracting you from the Lord’s work lately? Perhaps we could all benefit from the same prayer of the Psalm above. Lord, help me to spend my time seeking life through your ways 

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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## CHURCHES GONE WILD

Michael Pickford

I have heard of shows like “Girls Gone Wild” (Do not watch!), “Gardening Gone Wild,” “Rednecks Gone Wild,” and “Jellyfish Gone Wild.” “Gone wild” carries the idea of being reckless, carefree, acting in an illicit (unlawful), uncontrolled manner. With this view in mind, I think it can certainly be said that there are some local churches that have “Gone Wild.” They have gone wild with their.....

**Erroneous Preaching.** It has been said that a local church is as faithful as the preaching it demands. If they allow their preacher(s) to preach error; if they put up with it because he is “Such a good speaker” and “So knowledgeable and sound on other issues,” then they are destined for disaster. Paul represented such men as being Satan’s ministers disguised as “*Ministers of righteousness*” (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). If they are tolerated, rather than marked and avoided, they will deceive the hearts of the simple (Romans 16:17-18). I’ve heard stories of elders hiring preachers whom they knew to teach error on certain issues because they were so talented and sound on other issues. And we have seen many such churches led subtly away from the narrow path of truth.

**Entertaining Pursuits.** So-called “Faithful churches” are more and more catering to the downgrade tendencies of our society to be constantly entertained. We’re told that children can’t be properly taught unless it is done with entertainment and fun. So many churches have transformed their VBSs into food and games with the Bible left over in the corner with the cobwebs. These children come away from such gatherings with makeup on their faces and food in their belly, but with no further knowledge of the precious word of God. They speak of the good times they had, but can’t quote a single scripture or tell a single bible story. Shameful! There was a time when the church of Christ had the reputation of being a church that respectfully studied the word of God, but it’s now being viewed by many as a place to play. Do not be deceived, “*The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit*” (Romans 14:17).

**Extralegal Practices.** Instead of offering authority from Christ for all they do (Colossians 3:17), many churches seem to be seeking ways to transgress the doctrine of Christ with reckless abandon. Frightening! 

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# DON'T BE "IGNORANT"

Michael Pickford

Ignorance isn't generally a good thing. Education is a political hot button because parents don't want their children to be ignorant. It is far more tragic when folks are ignorant of the soul saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the epistles, we find many statements expressing the desire of the writer that their readers not be ignorant concerning essential spiritual truths....

1) **Don't Be Ignorant Concerning Spiritual Gifts.** Some in the church at Corinth were acting in an ignorant way in regards to the miraculous spiritual gifts. Instead of using them for their intended purpose – to edify the church, they were using them for personal grandstanding. Paul wrote, “*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant*” (1 Corinthians 12:1). Many today are ignorant in regards to the passing of the miraculous spiritual gifts. We need to learn that only the Apostles had the ability to impart the spiritual gifts to others (Acts 8:18). No one living today can meet the requirements for being an apostle (Acts 1:21-22). We conclude from this that when all of the apostles died, and all of the Christians upon whom they laid their hands had died, the miraculous spiritual gifts must have ceased. In fact, Paul taught the Corinthians that when the complete revelation had come, the partial revelations (Spiritual gifts) would cease (1 Corinthians 13:8-13). Well, God's full revelation had been revealed before the close of the first century (Jude 3; 2 Peter 1:3). Don't be ignorant, miraculous spiritual gifts have ceased!

2) **Don't be Ignorant Regarding Examples of Disobedience.** Paul did not want the Corinthians to be ignorant about their fathers and the punishments they received because of their disobedience to God (1 Corinthians 10:1 – KJV). God was displeased with them and their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. They lusted after evil things, practiced idolatry, committed fornication, tempted God, and complained. As a result, thousands of them died in one day, many were destroyed by serpents, and others were destroyed by the destroyer. Paul said these things were written as examples for us (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11). Many today try to push a “faith only” type of salvation. Don't be ignorant; just as these were destroyed for their disobedience, those today who do not obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be punished with “Everlasting destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

3) **Don't Be Ignorant About Faithful Christians Who Have Died.** “*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). Some seemed to think that if a Christian died before the Lord returned, then they have lost their opportunity to go to heaven. Paul went on to explain that when the Lord returns, before the Christians still living rise up into heaven, the dead Christians would be resurrected. These resurrected Christians would then rise up with us to meet the Lord in the air and be with Him forever. When a Christian dies, we are certainly saddened, we will miss them in our lives; we mourn, but not as those who have no hope. We take comfort in the fact that they died with a living hope of heaven and we must comfort ourselves and one another with the thought of being reunited with them in eternal glory (vs 18). 🕊

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### Things The Bible Can't Do

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by... Ben Reagh
- Reading: 1 Peter 1:22-25
- 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

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!