

ENCOURAGE HIM

Michael Pickford

Moses was forbidden to enter into the promised land because of his disobedience at Kadesh (Numbers 20). He pled with the Lord to allow him to cross over and see the beauty of the land, but God said, “*You shall not cross over*” (Deuteronomy 3:27). God told Moses that Joshua would lead Israel into the land, God said, “*Encourage him and strengthen him.*”

If there was anything Joshua needed the most for his task it was courage. He had all the people against him when he said they could conquer the land. That’s a discouraging position to be in, he needed encouragement. Before taking up the task of leading Israel to

victory over the promised land, God repeatedly told him to “*Be strong and of good courage*” (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9).

Oh how we need constant encouragement as we strive to gain victory and inherit our promised land (Heaven). We often stand alone as those around us go after worldliness, or even religious error. Like Joshua, we have many battles ahead of us. Mercifully, God has given us a spiritual family to encourage us in our faith (1 Th. 3:2). God knows how we need to be strengthened, and commands us to offer one another daily exhortation (Heb. 3:13). Regarding your brother, encourage him! 🔍

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
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5th Sunday Men’s Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854
“*They...searched the scriptures daily...*” –Acts 17:11

Volume 10, Number 37

September 21, 2014

HEZEKIAH THE GREAT

Michael Pickford

The world has known some great men; men who excelled in their field of labor. Herod the Great was known for his great construction efforts. Alexander the Great was known for his conquests of Nations. The most important “Field” is the spiritual field. In this regard, we read of great men in the Bible. Let’s consider Hezekiah the Great, a king of Judah during the days of Isaiah the prophet. Hezekiah was....

Fervent in His Prayers. The best sermons on prayer always refer to the examples of Hezekiah. He literally took it to the Lord in prayer when he took Sennacherib’s threatening and mocking letter to the house of the Lord and “Spread it before the Lord” (2 Kings 19:14). Who can forget the prayer he prayed on his bed when he had been told by the Lord (Through Isaiah) that he would surely die. God heard that prayer and granted him fifteen more years of life (2 Kings 20:1-6). Jesus taught “That men always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1), and Paul commanded saints to “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Let’s be fervent in our prayers like Hezekiah.

Firm in His Purposes. Hezekiah

made some mistakes, but he was not wishy-washy when it came to his purposes. His mind was made up to rid his land of the idolatrous high places. 2 Kings 18:6 speaks eloquently of Hezekiah’s determined purpose in life, “*For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments.*” Could these words be honestly engraved on your tombstone? We need to be firm of purpose when it comes to serving the Lord and obeying His commands. Whether it’s the command to assemble (Hebrews 10:25), the command to give (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), the command to care for the sick and needy (Matthew 25:35-36), et. al., let us be “*Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord*” (Romans 12:11).

Fearless in His Principles. Unlike other kings, he refused to pay tribute to the evil king of Assyria; instead, he trusted the Lord to provide and protect (2 Kings 18:6-7). As Christians, we must hold firm to our righteous principles, even when the heat is on. Some too easily give in to temptation because everyone else is doing it. They fear being the oddball. Like Hezekiah, let us be strong and courageous (1 Corinthians 16:13). 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Michael Pickford

True physical hunger can be a very powerful drive. We have an example in the Bible of an instance in which folks were so hungry they were driven to eat their own children (2 Kings 6:29). I doubt that any of us has ever known or felt hunger to this extent; but this is just the kind of spiritual hunger and thirst that Jesus demands of His disciples. He said, “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled*” (Matthew 6:6).

Longing for knowledge of God’s Truths. There is a desire for knowledge of God’s word, and there is a desire to practice God’s word – To live righteously. It’s difficult to tell which comes first, but both are certainly indicated in the Lord’s statement. Some desire to know more, but they have no real desire to apply it to their lives. Perhaps they only want to impress others with their mental abilities. It’s certainly good to want to know God’s truths, but we are deceived if we think that merely knowing them will save our souls. “*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves*” (James 1:22).

Living out one’s knowledge of God’s Truths. We shouldn’t just want to know the way of righteousness, we must also desire to live righteous lives. The both the wise and the foolish man heard Jesus, they both gained knowledge, but what set them apart was that the wise man actually applied what he heard to his life (Matthew 7:24-27). James 1:22 mentions both hearing and doing. Let’s develop a true hunger for learning God’s ways, and for doing them! 🔍

“For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses.”

-2 Kings 18:6



OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH DAVID MCPHERSON IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 19-24 (SUNDAY - FRIDAY).

SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY DAILY!
Acts
17:11

The Household of Cornelius

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Frank Anderson
Reading: Ezekiel 33:30-33
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Green
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Kenny Todd
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord’s Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Ben Reagh

**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!