

TRY EVERYTHING!

Michael Pickford

The title of this article can have a double meaning. It has a biblical meaning and it has a meaning that follows after the world.

It's actually a biblical concept when understood properly. Paul wrote, "*But try all, holding fast to the good*" (1 Thessalonians 5:21, Moffatt New Translation). You may be more familiar with a translation that says "Test all things," or "Prove all things."

Unfortunately, many so-called faithful churches have decided to go with the other meaning of this phrase. When it comes to gaining numbers, they have patterned themselves after the denominations around them, they'll try

anything and everything in order to get bodies in the door. They've resorted to sponsoring ballteams, dinners, carwashes, bake sales, "Thanksgiving dinners," "Contemporary Services," games for children and adults, et.al.

But biblically, the phrase means just the opposite. Before the church accepts anything, it must test it against the scripture and prove that it is authorized. Someone may come up with a "Good idea," but its scripturalness is the true test of its goodness. And if it is scriptural, we should "Hold fast" to it.

"Whatever you do in word and deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..." (Colossians 3:17) 

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.



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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

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HOW NOT TO TREAT YOUR BRETHREN

Michael Pickford

We often emphasize the ways the Bible instructs us to treat our brethren. We are to love them, respect them, do good for them, bear their burdens, be kind to them, encourage them, exhort them, etc. But the Bible also emphasizes some ways we are NOT to treat our brethren. Consider three...

Do Not Slander Them. It's odd that most of the time when one slanders another, it's usually someone close to them, perhaps even a family member. So often brethren slander their brethren. The root cause is often low self esteem or envy. We want folks to think more highly of us so we slander them in order to bring them down a notch. To slander someone is to speak in such a way as to diminish or harm their reputation (Their name).

In regards to the tongue, James wrote, "*With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so*" (James 3:9-10). "*Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy*" (Psalm 101:5).

Do Not Sue Them. Early Christians lived in the Roman Empire that was

overwhelmed in Greek culture. These people loved the courts of law. They would often sue one another without cause, just for the entertainment of it. This way of life so infected the local church at Corinth that Paul had to expressly address it (Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-7). We, too, live in a society and culture in which we are surrounded by litigation. From judge Wapner to Judge Judy Americans are tuning in at high volumes to watch the excitement of one person suing another. The influence has rubbed off on some of God's children. But God says we are not to take a brother to court! I'm not aware of any prohibitions against legitimate lawsuits against those outside of Christ, but certainly not against your brethren in the Lord!

Do Not Shun Them. To shun someone is to completely ignore them; to cut off all communication and contact with them. This is how some religious organizations treat their unfaithful. But the Bible teaches the withdrawal process when it comes to an unrepentant sinner (1 Co. 5:1-13; 2 Ths. 3:6). And after the withdrawal, we are not to treat them as an enemy, we are to admonish them as a brother, in hopes that they'll repent. (2 Ths. 3:14-15). 

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IGNORING GOD

Michael Pickford

God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). The rest of the verse goes on to explain the reason for their lack of knowledge. It was because they chose to be ignorant by rejecting the knowledge of God.

Many today are making this same mistake by rejecting the Gospel of Christ and substituting in its place their own wisdom or the wisdom of other men. Paul wrote of such people in Romans 10:3, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God." Consider some ways in which men today ignore God's righteousness.

Many teach a system of "Faith Only" salvation. They contend that all one has to do to be saved is believe on Jesus as the Son of God. Their basis for this teaching is a perversion of Romans 5:1 which states that we have been justified by faith. No one denies faith as a necessity for salvation, but the text never said faith "only." These folks ignore what God said in James 2:24, "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."

Some try to ignore the fact that the Old Testament has been nailed to the cross. They seek to authorize some of their religious practices based on the Law of Moses. They ignore such passages as Hebrews 8:7-13 which plainly teaches that the old law has been made obsolete by the bringing in of the new covenant (vs. 13). Many ignore God's clear statements about Baptism being necessary for salvation. Jesus stated, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Paul taught in many places that baptism saves (Rom. 6:1-4; Gal. 3:26, 27; Col. 2:12, etc.). Peter made clear the necessity of baptism for salvation (Acts 2:38). He stated in 1 Peter 3:21, "There is also an antitype which now saves us - baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Ignoring God's word and substituting the traditions and doctrines of men are condemned By Jesus (Matthew 15:7-9). Read and heed the entire Gospel. Don't be guilty of ignoring God. 🔍

"Fight the good fight!"

1 Timothy 6:12

SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

Godly Speech:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd
Reading: Matthew 12:33-37
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Ben Reagh
- Closing Prayer.....Michael Pickford

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

Thank You For Serving!

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; 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!

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*