

## THE PRAYERS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

Michael Pickford

In the first two visions given to Amos in chapter 7:1-6, the destruction to be caused by the locusts and the fire, Amos prays to God to relent from bringing those on His people.

*“So the Lord relented concerning this, ‘It shall not be,’ said the Lord”* (Am 7:3,6).

Through prayer, Hezekiah was granted fifteen more years of life (2 Kings 20:1-6). Through prayer, Elijah moved the Lord to withhold, and then bring down the rain. James concludes,

*“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”* (James 5:16).

This speaks of the righteousness of Amos in that God responded to his prayers favorably. But it also teaches us a couple of important lessons.

- (1) If we want our prayers heard, we must live righteous before the Lord.
- (2) If we are living righteous, there is never any need for fear or anxiety, not even in the face of our darkest challenges. Pray! (Philippians 4:6-7). 🔍

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

- [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

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

Volume 11, Number 17

April 26, 2015

## THE TRANSFIGURATION

Michael Pickford

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all give us accounts of the significant event of the Transfiguration. Peter makes reference to it in 2 Peter 1:16-18 where he said they were “eyewitnesses of His majesty.” It was like a moment in time when the inward deity of Jesus was allowed to bleed through the body of flesh and shine gloriously. Consider the...

**Connection To Jesus' Death.** Moses and Elijah also appeared at the transfiguration, and Luke tells us they spoke with Jesus about His upcoming death at Jerusalem (Luke 9:31). We see here the manhood of Jesus. Jesus was fully God and fully man. While man may not be able to comprehend this fact, he must accept it by faith. From scripture we can affirm Jesus' full deity without denying His manhood, and we can affirm His full manhood without denying His deity (Hebrews 1, 2). Being a man, Jesus was tempted as we are, yet without sin, so we can gain strength during temptation by looking to Him (Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-15).

**Confirmation of Jesus' Dominance.** To the Jews, Moses represented the Law, and Elijah represented the Prophets. Their presence with Jesus represented the Old law (Testament). But while Peter, James, and John looked on, God spoke from heaven and said to hear His Son. This shows us that Jesus' covenant was to overshadow and annul the Old law. He nailed it to His cross (Co. 2:14) and made it “obsolete” (Heb. 8:13). The Old Testament is God's word, and can still prosper us today (1 Co. 10:11; Romans 15:4), but we can no longer appeal to it for the things we believe and practice. Whatever we do must be done by the authority of Christ through His doctrine (Col. 3:17; 2 Jn. 9).

**Confusion of Jesus' Disciples.** The disciples understood the transfiguration to verify that Jesus was the Messiah, but if Jesus was the Messiah, why hadn't Elijah come first, as was prophesied? So they asked, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” (Matt. 17:10). The scribes were correct (Mal. 4:5-6), but they had missed the point that John the Baptist was “Elijah, who is to come” (Matt. 11:11-14; see also Lk. 1:17). John the Baptist did come before Jesus, as His forerunner (Matt. 3:3). So Jesus told them that “Elijah has come already, and they did not know him” (Matt. 17:12). “Then the disciples understood that he spoke to them of John the Baptist” (vs 13). 🔍

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

## BEFORE THE SUN SETS

Mike Thomas

God has always instructed His people to do certain things in relation to the setting of the sun.

The Jew was to offer his Passover sacrifice at sunset (Deut. 16:6). Whenever he received a person's garment as part of a pledge, he was to "return the pledge to him again when the sun goes down, that he may sleep in his own garment" (Deut. 24:13). In hiring a worker he was told, "Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he is poor and has set his heart on it" (v. 15). The sun sets by the word of God. "He appointed the moon for seasons; The sun knows its going down" (Psa. 104:19).

As long as God allows life on earth there will be a rising and setting of the sun. It is the only sun this world has known. When Adam was in the Garden, he looked at the same sun we gaze at today. It's the same one Noah saw when he viewed a rainbow for the first time, and that Jesus felt as he hung on the cross. Once we are gone, the same sun will be here to set time and sustain life for the next generation. It will be as Solomon said, "One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth abides forever. The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it arose" (Eccl. 1:4, 5).

If we're going to obey God we need to do so before the sun sets...even today! It is a mistake to think that just because the sun dawned this morning that it will do so again. God says, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth" (Pro. 27:1). The time to live right is today.

Before the sun sets, either on this day or on our earthly life, let us repent of any sin in our life. We may not get another day to make that choice (Acts 24:25). If we haven't obeyed the gospel, let us do so today while we can still act, even if it is at night (Acts 16:33). If we are holding a grudge or seething in anger, let us "not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil" (Eph. 4:26,27). If we haven't told our family how much we love them, let us do so before the sun sets for we may not get another chance.

The time to walk with faith in and love for God is today. The time to demonstrate a fearless zeal in doing His work is now, while the sun still shines upon us. For the time is coming when it will set for the last time. -

## Mark Your Calendars!



- ✓ Tonight: Singing Night, 6 pm
- ✓ May 03, Business Meeting; following pm service
- ✓ June 14-19: Gospel Meeting with Larry Ping

## SERMON NOTES

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

### A Militant Faith

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

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

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Ben Green
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell  
Reading: Galatians 2:1-5
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Ben Reagh

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Invitation.....Eli Todd

### 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!**

**Thank You For Serving!**

*Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!*