

## NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Michael Pickford

God's word is truth (John 17:17). The only way we can be pleasing to Him is to believe and follow His truth as revealed in the Bible. Nothing more, nothing less! Paul placed a strong curse upon those who would add to the Gospel the thoughts and doctrines of man (Galatians 1:6-9). But God's truth isn't palatable to most men. It is often harsh and offensive, so preachers avoid it in order to be popular.

**“For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ”**

-Galatians 1:10

It is better to speak the truth that hurts and then heals, than falsehood that comforts and then kills. It is not love and it is not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God. It is better to be hated for telling the truth, than to be loved for telling a lie. It is impossible to find anyone in the Bible who was true to God's message who did not have enemies and was not hated. It is better to stand alone with the truth than to be wrong with a multitude. It is better to ultimately succeed with the truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie. There is only one true Gospel and Paul wrote, “If any man preach any other Gospel to you than that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:9). ☞

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:**

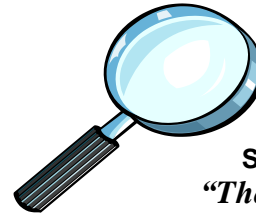
- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



## 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
- 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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## KNOWING GOD

Michael Pickford

There are many conceptions and misconceptions concerning deity. The Bible is the only true and reliable source from which to understand our creator. Many go to false sources and therefore have false ideas about God, including many who claim to be bible believers. In reality, men desire to fashion God according to their own whims and fancies. But nothing can undo the following facts about the true and living God...

**His Sustenance.** “The Lord is good to all...” (Psalm 145:9). This is one area no religious person has a problem with. They like to think of God as our supplier. Jesus taught that God makes the rain fall on the good and the evil, and he causes the sun to shine upon the good and the evil (Matthew 5:45). There are no conditions placed upon this particular type of sustenance; it is only necessary for one to live in the world to be a recipient of these blessings.

**His Salvation.** God's mercy and grace has been extended to all of mankind without exception. Man may be exceedingly wicked and sinful, but God still loves him and wants Him saved. God so loved the “World” that he sent his son to offer salvation. Jesus “is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe” (1 Timothy 4:10). While Jesus offered up his blood to offer salvation to all men, it is necessary for man to obey him in order to receive this salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9). Most are good with the thought of God offering salvation to all men, but they want to remove the condition of obedience. We need to understand that God wants all men saved, but that our being saved is dependent upon our choice to obey and serve Him.

**His Severity.** This is where many folks go astray in their understanding of God. They do not wish to accept the fact that he is very severe. One cannot ignore His great displays of wrath recorded in scripture upon the wicked and disobedient. There's the great flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, etc. It is necessary to consider both the goodness and the severity of God (Romans 11:22). On the last day God will exercise vengeance upon those who chose not to know Him, or to obey the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). We must accept the fact that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:30-31). Flee from the wrath to come by submitting to God's will through Jesus the Lord. ☞

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## GOD BEFORE FAMILY

Mike Thomas

It is no coincidence that Jesus taught the principle of placing God before family in the same context He taught people to bear their cross. There is no heavier burden to endure in life than loving God more than earthly family. Nevertheless, Jesus said, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:37-38).

Whenever we feel like this burden is more than we can bear, we need to remember what God told Aaron in the aftermath of Nadab and Abihu's death, who were consumed with fire for disobeying God in worship (Leviticus 10:1-3). They were Aaron's two oldest sons (Numbers 3:2), and had just been appointed by God to serve as priests with their father. Even still, after the men died, God told Aaron and his remaining sons, "Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die...you shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of meeting" (Leviticus 10:6-7). Did God not care that a father had just lost his sons and a family was in shock? Of course not. Then why the "harsh" treatment? Why keep them at the tabernacle? Because "the anointing oil of the Lord" was upon them (v. 7). Aaron and his sons had just been consecrated to serve as priests and could not mourn in the typical manner without becoming defiled. They had to place God's will above their own by supporting His judgment and by fulfilling their priestly duties of making atonement for sin. Amazingly, they obeyed God and bore their cross (v. 7).

In a similar manner, God is expecting the same commitment from us. We must love Him more than our earthly family by supporting His judgments. Not that we stop caring for our family; that's impossible. It's just that we love God more by adhering to the one faith, one church, and other truths He revealed (Ephesians 4:1-5), even when our loved ones will not. This is the devotion Aaron had to have when his sons defied God, and the devotion we must have to stand alone. If we do not, and compromise with error instead, we are not worthy to be called God's people. But if we do make this painful stand, and bear this most heavy cross, "by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him" (1 John 3:19). -



A Big Thanks to Everyone who worked hard to make our Gospel Meeting a success. Thanks for your attendance and for diligently inviting others to Come!

## SERMON NOTES

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford  
Reading: Acts 9:26-30
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord's Table:
  - Lead.....Lynn Buttrey
  - Serve.....Kenny Todd
  - Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

#### SUNDAY EVENING

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

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- 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!***