

A PRECIOUS DEATH

Michael Pickford

Something that is precious is something that is very dear – something of great value. This isn't the way would generally hear death being described. But God has a different view...

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”

-Psalm 116:15

If one spends His life in faithful obedience to the Lord, God holds his death in high esteem. After Moses had died, God Himself gave the eulogy, “Moses My servant is dead” (Joshua 1:2). This is all we can ask for, to live life in such a way that God Himself can call us His servant. The death of a precious saint is valuable to God, and is valuable to the saint himself, for his trials and tribulations in this life are over, and now he can be in paradise, resting from his good works (Revelation 14:13). The deceased saint's faithfulness to God is also valuable to his friends and loved ones after he is gone. While we will miss them and mourn their loss, we can take comfort in the fact that they are now truly at rest in glory. May we strive, for everyone's sake, to obey the Lord and walk faithfully in His sight each day of our earthly existence. ☞

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
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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HUNGERING & THIRSTING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Michael Pickford

In the Beatitudes, Jesus places a blessing upon those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6). The most popular understanding of this has the Lord teaching a strong desire for knowledge about his word, hence we hear lessons about the need to spend much time studying the bible. That's good, but I believe Jesus meant something deeper, something that will affect our study, but so much more.....

Our Source For Righteousness. In the first place, we need to realize the true source for righteousness. Where do we go to learn what is right? To the writing and wisdom of man? To the laws and ordinances of man? To our college text books, or denominational creed books? No. God's word is the only source for true righteousness. There we must go if we want to learn how to be right with God and with man. God tells us that “All scripture” is profitable for “Instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

Our Search for Righteousness. It's not enough to identify the proper source for righteousness, we must then go to that source regularly. This is the aspect of studying God's word. If one truly hungers and thirsts for righteousness, he will seek it out. This takes regular diligent, daily study of the source – all scripture. Timothy was told to “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 timothy 3:15). Some translations say “study.” This is what Paul had in mind inasmuch as the diligence spoken of here was to lead to a proper handling of the word of God. We must study diligently, and we must study daily (Acts 17:11).

Our Securing of Righteousness. We can recognize the true source of righteousness, and even educate ourselves in scripture, and still not secure righteousness. This is why I believe that when Jesus spoke about hungering and thirsting for righteousness, He meant something deeper than merely attaining knowledge of it. People study the Bible for different reasons. They may study it academically, or they may study it in order to twist it, or to criticize it; they may even study it with the intention of putting it into practice, but then neglect to do so. Whatever the reason, knowledge of scripture alone will not make a man righteous. One must be “doers of the word” (James 1:22). ☞

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BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN

Larry R. Ping II

Although the beatitudes are quite often translated physically, Jesus used them to teach spiritual lessons. His intent was never to get us to think in literal terms, but rather in religious ones. Think about the following beatitude.

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted” (*Matthew 5:4*).

One could say Jesus was making reference to those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. One could say Jesus was attempting to offer solace to those who are traveling through difficult waters. But in reality, Jesus was instructing His listeners regarding the need to be truly and sincerely sorry for the sin in their life. If one intends to be comforted, or relieved of his sin, he must be sorry for his transgressions.

The Bible reminds its readers concerning the need to be sorry for our sin. Specifically, God saw fit to include in the Holy Writ David’s remorse concerning his sin with Bathsheba. Below is an excerpt.

“I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah” (*Psalms 32:5*).

The problem for many in the Bible and for many today is the refusal to be sorry for sin. Paul chastised the Corinthians for this exact issue. Consider the following.

“It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father’s wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you” (*I Corinthians 5:1-2*).

On this day, we must strive to be like David — recognize sin and do something about it! Stay away from the “Corinthian” attitude — we cannot afford to ignore sin and revel in it. Start being sorrowful about your sin. -

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...
Reading: Matthew 8:5-13
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Johnson
 - Serve.....John Nelson
 - Serve.....Kenny Todd
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Sam Miller
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

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!***

Thank You For Serving!