

"May the Lord *bless* you  
and *protect* you.  
may the Lord smile on you  
and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you his *favor*  
and give you his *peace*."  
Numbers 6:24-26

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)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- 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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### OBEY THE GOSPEL

Michael Pickford

Religious people today use many different phrases to speak of "Getting Saved." I prefer the one the Bible seems to prefer when it speaks of obeying the Gospel. We should teach people to obey the Gospel. Using the phrase "Obey the Gospel" doesn't sit well with many because they want to minimize and even criticize the need to obey in order to be saved. But consider what the Bible says...

**Calling On The Lord.** Paul spoke of calling on the name of the Lord and obeying the Gospel in synonymous terms (Romans 10. 13, 16). One calls on the name of the Lord by obeying the Gospel! Similarly, the bible speaks of those who were "Obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7), and it emphasizes that in order to have salvation, one must "Obey" Jesus (Hebrews 5:8-9). One Obeys the Gospel initially by hearing, believing Jesus to be God's son, repenting of his sins, confessing his faith in Jesus as Lord, and being baptized into Christ for the remission of his sins (Romans 10:17; John 8:24; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10; Galatians 3:26-27; Acts 22:16). Have you obeyed the Gospel?

**Continuing In The Lord.** The churches of Galatia were in danger of being led away from God's grace by those who insisted that one must keep the commandments of Moses and the Old Testament (Galatians 5:4). Paul said, "Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth" (Galatians 3:1). Paul was speaking of the truth of the Gospel (Galatians 2:14). Christians are to continue to obey the Gospel throughout life without being led away from Christ - Be faithful until death. Obedience is not a onetime event, but an ongoing affair. One must be faithful until death in order to receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

**Counting On The Lord.** We believe the Promise of the Lord that those who are faithful to Him will receive the crown of life. We're all counting on the Lord for this and He will not let us down (2 Timothy 4:6-8). Peter used the phrase "Obey the gospel" in relation to this (1 Peter 4:17-18). In the last day, those who obey the Gospel initially, and continue to obey it, remaining faithful to the Lord and His doctrine, will appear in glory eternally. But those who do not "Obey the gospel" and continue to obey will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Along with the New Testament, We urge you to "Obey the Gospel." 🔍

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# THE CATHOLIC INQUISITION

Mike Thomas

Be thankful you live in the 21st century in the United States of America. Had you been born a few centuries earlier and in other parts of the world, you would have been punished for being non-Catholic. The Inquisition is a dark spot on the history of Catholicism, making it difficult for any sincere Catholic to defend the actions of past popes and church officials. If the pope is truly infallible, and such a position has been authorized by Christ since the time of Peter, the practice of the Inquisition wrecks of blatant infallibility. There is no scriptural precedent for torturing and burning unbelievers or for confiscating their properties for not being a Catholic. Yet, according to the *infallible* popes beginning with Pope Gregory IX in 1233, this was acceptable treatment of those who did not belong to the Catholic church. Fortunately, the Spanish Inquisition was abolished in 1834 and has since faded globally from Catholic tradition. The world now accepts and acknowledges that all such efforts were both inhumane and ungodly.

The Inquisition speaks of man's inability to claim divine inspiration. No Pope is infallible, nor is this office ever taught in the word of God. Even Pope John II (served from 1978 to 2005) acknowledged that the Church's Inquisition erred in condemning Galileo in 1633 for declaring the earth was not the center of the universe. It was among the sins the Pope apologized for on March 13, 2000 regarding the mistakes of the church. Nevertheless, Pope Urban VIII condemned Galileo to a lifetime imprisonment for his views on astronomy, which we now know are correct. Was Pope Urban VIII the Vicar of Christ or was he not? If he had divine inspiration in condemning Galileo why do the popes of the 21st century say he was wrong? Did God not know until the 21st century that the earth was not the center of the universe? And what about the other popes who promoted and endorsed the Inquisition as it punished countless souls over centuries of time? Was God guiding them in decisions that are now condemned by modern popes?

All of these conflicts are resolved by acknowledging the inspiration of the Bible. As the complete will of God (2 Tim. 3:16, 17), it teaches that local churches are to be overseen by qualified men who are known in the New Testament as elders, overseers, bishops, pastors, and the presbytery (Titus 1:5, 7; Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 4:14). At no time are these men to rule beyond the local church they are a part of — as emphasized by Peter (1 Pet. 5:2). Nor is their rule to be a dictatorship as found in denominational offices of the bishop. They are not "lords over those entrusted" to them, to make law and doctrine for Christians to practice. This perversion of authority is what lead to the position of the pope and the abuses of the Inquisition. Instead, God's bishops are to lead by example in submitting to the only Head of the Church: Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 5:3; Eph. 1:22). Any other form of church government is a perversion that leads to further departures from truth. -

# Each One Teach One

## 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...Frank Anderson  
Reading: Psalm 143:9-12
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Eli Todd
- 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!**