



# ***SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER***

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

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## **GOD'S NAMES FOR US**

**Michael Pickford**

Great emphasis is often placed upon the many names by which God is called in Scripture. We learn a great deal about God from these various names. But what about the names God calls His people? He uses names that speak of our...

**Relationship.** One of these is the name "Christian." God prophesied through Isaiah that He would call His people by a "New name" (Isaiah 62:2). He fulfilled this promise with the name "Christian" (Acts 11:26). Within the name "Christian" is the name of Christ. What better name could have been chosen to reflect our relationship with Christ? We're not just disciples (followers) of Christ, we are in Him and He is in us (Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 3:17). And because of this relationship with Christ we have a relationship with God the Father (Romans 5:1). "Sons of God" is another name God calls us (Galatians 3:26-27). Wow! When someone has an earthly father who has done something great and earned the admiration of his peers, they are quick to tell others that they are his son. But "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1). We should be quick to claim and boast of this relationship so that we might lead others to Him...

**Responsibility.** Some of the names God calls His children speak of our responsibilities as His children. For example, we are called God's "Friends," but only as we keep the Lord's commandments and display a working faith (John 15:14; James 2:21-23). We are also called "Disciples." This speaks of the fact that we are to be students of Christ. We should continue to learn from Him via diligent study of His Gospel (Acts 17:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:10)...

**Reward.** God has referred to His children with names that speak of their eternal reward in heaven. For example, Paul tells us that we are "Heirs." An heir is one who inherits something. What do we inherit? Eternal life! (Titus 3:7). So Paul wrote, "And if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Romans 8:17). It's nice to inherit material riches as an heir of an earthly father; but O how glorious to inherit spiritual riches from our heavenly Father Who has made us "Joint-heirs" with Christ! 🔍

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

**We walk by Faith,**  
*Faith*  
**not by sight.**

2 Corinthians 5:7

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)
- 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.

# SIGNIFICANCE OF 40 DAYS

Mike Thomas

The Bible makes mention of several significant events occurring within the span of 40 days:

- It rained 40 days and nights during the flood (Gen. 7:12).
- Moses was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days both times He received the Ten Commandments (Exo. 24:18; 34:28).
- The spies were in the Land of Canaan for 40 days (Num. 13:25).
- Elijah hid from Jezebel for 40 days (1 Ki. 19:8).
- Jonah warned Nineveh for 40 days (Jon. 3:4).
- Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days (Matt. 4:2).
- Jesus walked the earth for 40 days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3).

Was it coincidence that all of these events occurred over the same period of time or is there spiritual significance to a 40-day period? There are plenty of superstitions circulating in the religious community surrounding the number 40, that is for certain. From yoga to Hindu rituals to Islamic prayers to “Christians” given to numerology, people from all walks of life rely on a 40-day period to produce changes in behavior. Our catholic friends define Lent as a 40-day fast. So what significance, if any, does 40 days have from a biblical perspective?

The answer to this question is simple: the Bible doesn't say. I know that is disappointing to some but that is the truth. People will try to predict the future or discover some secret code within the Bible by using numbers and patterns of numbers. That is not how God wants us to treat the Bible. While some numbers were given significance by God (Matt. 12:40; Rev. 13:18), that cannot be said of every number or pattern of numbers in the Bible. Some numbers were meant to be hyperbole (Matt. 18:22). It has been suggested that 40 days is the best method of tracking solar years, that it's a period of trial, or that it's the product of multiplying the number for grace (8) times the number for renewal (5), if you can imagine such a thing. All of this is speculation and surmising, of which we must avoid in studying the Bible.

The Israelites both ate manna and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. A superstitious person will see that as a pattern or a secret code for the number 40. Yet the Bible says they wandered 40 years as part of their punishment; a year for every day the spies were in the land (Num. 14:33,34). The manna came to an end when they entered the land of Canaan (Exo. 16:35). To see some mystical meaning in the number 40 in relation to these events is to see things God never intended. Goliath challenged Israel to battle for 40 days (1 Sam. 17:16). What could possibly be the spiritual significance of that?

We must realize that we can get the Bible to say anything we want (John 5:39)...and God will permit us to deceive ourselves (2 Thess. 2:11, 12). Since that is so, let us be careful to teach only what can be proven in the Bible. There might be spiritual significance to a 40-day period but we cannot use the Bible to define it, because it's not there. The Bible says, “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Pet. 4:11), of which we can be certain.-

## 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...Johnny Blair  
Reading: Luke 23:39-43
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Michael Pickford  
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table.....John Nelson

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Kenny Todd

**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!**