

## Mark 16:16

**JESUS:** "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16)

**THE ATHEIST:** "He that believeth and is baptized shall NOT be saved."

**THE UNIVERSALIST:** "He that does NOT believe and is NOT baptized shall be saved."

**THE INFANT BAPTIZERS:** "He that does NOT believe and is baptized (sprinkled? poured?) shall be saved. "

**MOST DENOMINATIONIST:** "He that believeth and is saved shall be baptized."

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:**

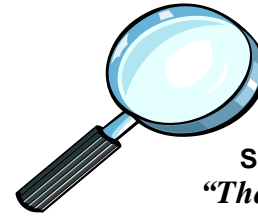
- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



### **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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### **THE DEATH OF STEPHEN**

**Michael Pickford**

**Courage.** It took great courage for Stephen to present the sermon he presented, and to refer to his audience as "Stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears" (Acts 7:51). But it took greater courage still to continue to express his belief in Jesus after the stoning had begun and death seemed eminent. Many might cower out of the situation in order to save their own neck. Not Stephen! It takes bravery and courage to remain faithful to the Lord, especially when one's life is endangered for it. So Paul tells Christians "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13). Stephen lost his life on earth in order to stand fast. Often, we must lose our life in order to stand fast. I'm not speaking of physical death; I'm speaking of making the necessary sacrifices sometimes required of us – movies that are foul, songs that contain vulgarity, even video games that portray immodesty, refusing to deny the Lord when our friends give us a hard time, etc.

**Confidence.** With confidence Stephen said "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59). This is the way I want to face death - with confidence of my salvation. If I can't know I'm going to heaven when I die, then I don't want to take my last breath. God has not called us to some flimsy half-baked hope, but to a "Living hope" (1 Peter 1:3). Nearing his own death, Paul spoke as a man who was certain of his salvation when he said "Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:8). John wrote so "That you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13). We can "know"! We can have that blessed assurance.

**Concern.** With his dying breath, Stephen said "Lord, do not charge them with this sin" (Acts 7:60). Stephen was concerned with the salvation of lost souls. Though he was dying, he wanted his murderers to repent before their death, and find salvation. The Lord is "Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). Like Stephen, we too should emulate God's concern for the lost. If we possess it, we will be busy trying to teach them the soul-saving message of the Gospel (Romans 1:16). 🔍

# HIM YOU SHALL HEAR IN ALL THINGS

Michael Pickford

Peter reminded his listeners at Solomon's Porch that Moses was a type of Jesus. Regarding Jesus, the prophecy stated, "Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you" (Acts 3:22; Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, 19). Many today need to be reminded to hear Jesus...

**Regarding Marriage and Divorce.** Divorce and remarriage is running rampant in our society, and is far too frequent in churches of Christ. False positions have been put forth by brethren to justify it. They need to hear Jesus said when he was asked if a man can put away his wife for just any cause, "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery" (Matthew 19:9).

**Regarding How To Get Saved.** Many different ways of getting saved have been put forth by man. Some claim that faith only saves, while others maintain that one must experience a direct operation upon the heart from the Holy Spirit. They need to hear Jesus, who said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16). "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" (James 2:24).

**Regarding Unity.** Many promote a unity in diversity doctrine, stating that we're all going to heaven, just by different paths. They believe one can simply join the church of His choice because they all have a little Jesus in them. They need to hear Jesus when he prayed diligently that His disciples be united just as he and the Father are united (John 17:20-26). This would include doctrinal unity inasmuch as the Father and the Son are perfectly unified in doctrine, and it was God's will that Jesus practiced and taught (John 4:34; 12:49-50).

**Regarding Obedience.** Many in religion reject the idea that we have to do anything to be saved, teaching that this would equal one earning his salvation, which would negate grace. Nonsense! We are saved by God's grace in that it was God's grace that provides man the opportunity to obey God and be saved. One could obey God all he wants and still be condemned by his sin if Christ had not died on the cross. They need to hear Jesus when he taught that not everyone who says to Him, "lord, Lord" shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Man has to DO something in order to enter heaven – God's will!

**Acceptable Worship.** Many teach that one can worship any way he wants as long as he is sincere. Really? What about men who offered their children as sacrifice to their idols; or men who commit fornication as an act of worship to the goddess Aphrodite? Could they worship the true God in these ways if they wanted to, as long as they did so sincerely? No, worship according to man's will is condemned (Colossians 3:23). They need to hear Jesus when he taught that worship must be offered "In spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Man must worship as God has specified in His word – "In truth."

**His Deity.** Some claim that Jesus was a great teacher, perhaps even a prophet, but certainly not God. Those who call themselves Jehovah's Witnesses vigorously deny the deity of Christ. They need to hear Him when he said, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). His listeners understood Him to be declaring his deity, for they tried to kill Him for it. Jesus was/is God (John 1:1-2, 14).

We must hear Jesus in all things, for only He has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). 🔍

## 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...Kenny Johnson  
Reading: 2 Corinthians 7:9-12
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Tony Jenkins
- 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.....Kenny Johnson

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Kenny 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!**

**Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!**

**Thank You For Serving!**