

ENCOURAGEMENT & WARNING

David Eldridge

Today's Reading: 1 Samuel 9-12

After the people made Saul king, Samuel speaks to the people of Israel. He reminds them of the times that Israel had rebelled in the past, their resulting oppression at the hands of the nations left in the land, and the deliverers which the Lord had sent.

Samuel used these events of the past as a warning to the people of their need to remain faithful to the Lord.

Today, I would encourage you to meditate on the words with which Samuel concluded his address: "Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king" (1 Sam. 12:24-25). -

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
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- 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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FAITH/BELIEF

Michael Pickford


In the last two articles we have dealt with hearing and repentance. Let's now consider briefly some things the Bible has to say about faith/belief. ...

Faith Is Required To Please God. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and the He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Universalists believe that everyone is destined to be rewarded with heaven, even atheists. This passage affirms how wrong that thinking is. Belief in God is required!

Faith Is Coupled With Baptism. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). This passage shows that faith must be coupled with baptism in order to result in salvation. Jesus didn't present faith and baptism as a "Take your choice" scenario; He presented them as both being necessary for salvation by using that little, yet powerful word "And." Jesus said belief "And" baptism equals salvation, not belief "Or" baptism!

Faith Only Does Not Justify. "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" (James 2:24). Denominational creed-books insist that faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, full of comfort. No so! This is the only time the phrase "Faith only" is found in scripture, and it says "Not by faith only." "Eternal salvation" is only for those who "Obey" Christ (Hebrews 5:8-9).

Faith Is Coupled With Confession. "With the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom.10:10). When the Eunuch wanted to be baptized, he was told he must believe (have faith). He then confessed Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 8:36-38). If one believes in Jesus, but refuses to confess Him as the Christ, he will not have God's praise (John 12:42-43). **Faith Must be Added To.** "Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, to brotherly kindness love" (2 Peter 1:5-7). Adding these is essential to being fruitful in the Lord and finally making it to heaven (vss 8, 11).

Faith Can be Compromised. It is possible for our faith to be "Shipwrecked," or "Overthrown" (1 Timothy 1:19; 2 Timothy 2:18). The Bible speaks of some who have "Strayed concerning the faith" (1 Timothy 6:21). We must be faithful until death if we want our crown of life (Revelation 2:10).  *More on faith next Week!*

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“YOU’RE NOT GOING TO CHANGE ME”

Greg Gwin

In a recent visit with a denominational preacher, it was noted that we have some real and serious doctrinal differences. “Would you be willing to discuss these in a friendly way?” I asked. He responded: “I’m not going to try to convert you, and you DEFINITELY aren’t going to change me!” While the attitude he expressed is very common these days, we think it is wrong on several levels.

1) This attitude certainly conveys the idea: “I’m right, and couldn’t possibly be wrong.” No one can afford to think that way. Consider Apollos (Acts 18). He was a well educated man from a respected center of Biblical studies; he was an eloquent speaker; and he was highly committed to spreading his message (vs. 24-25). But when he arrived in Ephesus, two ‘ordinary Christians’ (Aquila and Priscilla) recognized his faulty understanding and reached out to him with help (vs. 26). To his great credit, he accepted their instruction, changed, and went on to be a faithful and effective preacher of the Word (1 Cor. 3:4ff). That would have never happened if he had proudly said: “You DEFINITELY aren’t going to change me!” Let us all be open to the reality that we just might be wrong, and if so we WANT to be instructed “in the way of God more perfectly.”

2) This preacher’s response also suggests that he isn’t really interested in ME! We differ. He acknowledges this. Yet he has no interest in changing my understanding. How can this be? If these differences are significant enough to provoke his ‘you won’t change me’ reply, then they are surely important enough that he ought to want to change me. Yet, he says no. Out of love for my soul he should want to teach me (2 Tim. 2:25), but he won’t.

3) His reaction to the offer to study our differences also shows that he is content to remain in a divided state. In so doing, he is directly counteracting the desire and prayer of Jesus that we be united (John 17:20,21)

His response was a common one, but it exposes some seriously wrong attitudes. -

Why We Observe The Lord’s Supper Every Sunday

“Why do we observe the Lord’s Supper every Sunday? After all, most denominations observe it only a few times a year, some once a year, etc. What does the Bible say? God communicates His will to us in the same manner as we communicate with one another – by direct statements/commands, Necessary Inferences, and examples. Jesus commanded that we observe the Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11:24-25), by example we learn that local churches are to observe it on Sunday (Acts 20:7), and by necessary inference we learn that it should be every Sunday (Acts 20:7). The disciples came together upon the first day of the week to break bread. It is an inescapable conclusion that they did so every Sunday, just as when God told Israel to remember the Sabbath to keep it holy. He didn’t specify which Sabbath, so Israel, by necessary inference, understood it to mean every Sabbath. Act’s 20:7 didn’t say they did so every third Sunday, or on a Sunday four times a year; it just said on the first day of the week, therefore – every first day of the week. If we’re going to be biblical, then whenever any Sunday comes around, Acts 20:7 must apply. ☺ MP

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...Tony Jenkins
Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Eli Todd
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....N/A

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Eli Todd
- 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!***