

Do Not Withhold

Michael Pickford

To withhold means to keep back, to prevent. The Bible speaks of some things we do not need to withhold, which means these are things we should and must do.

1. Proverbs 3:27, "**Do not withhold** good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so." To now to do good, and to have the resources to do it, yet not do it, is sin (Jms 3:17). Consider 1 John 3:17
2. Proverbs 23:13, "**Do not withhold** correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die." Society says it's unloving to spank your child. God says just the opposite (Proverbs 13:24)
3. Luke 6:29, "To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, **do not withhold** your tunic either." Rather than seeking vengeance against those who wrong us, we should strive to "Win them over" by doing kind things to and for them. The hope is to make them feel ashamed of themselves for the way they have treated us. In this way we, "**Heap coals of fire on his head**" (Romans 12:20). Remember, Vengeance belongs to the Lord (Romans 12:19). ☞

The elements of our worship, 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

Volume 12, Number 32

August 14, 2016

RUNNING THE RACE

Michael Pickford

Olympic competitions were around in the first century, and competitive running is often alluded to in scripture to teach lessons about living as a child of God...

You Must Enter The Race. There is a detailed process one must go through in order to compete in competitive races. This is true of the Christian race. In order to enter Christ, one must hear (Rom 10:17), believe (John 8:24), repent (Acts 2:38), confess faith (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).

You Must Compete According To The Rules. "*If anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules*" (2 Tim 2:5). We sometimes hear of runners disqualified for breaking the rules. The same is true with Christians. The New Testament is our rule book, and to transgress it is to lose fellowship with God, regardless of how well we're running (2 Jn 9; Mt 7:21-23).

You Must Train Hard. It takes strenuous and dedicated training to prepare oneself for a competitive race. "*Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty... But I discipline my body, and bring it into subjection*" (1 Cor. 9:26-27). We train by studying God's word daily, praying often, and putting what we learn into practice (Acts 17:11; 1 Pt 3:15; 1 Ths 5:17-18; Titus 3:14).

You Must Endure Hardships and Set-backs. Runners may face injury, or other obstacles. This stands true in the Christian race as well. We will be mistreated and ridiculed by others for our faith, but don't dry up and leave the Lord because of the hardships brought on by your righteousness. Rejoice that you are counted worthy to suffer for his name (Matthew 5:10-12; Acts 5:40-42).

You Must Have The Right Mindset. Run to win! Any competitor will tell you this. "*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it*" (1 Cor. 9:24). Paul isn't teaching that only one person is going to heaven, but he is teaching that you are not going to heaven if you don't run with the mindset that only one is going to heaven, and that you're determined you are going to be that one!

You Need Encouragement From Others. Draw strength from other Christians, and from Christ Himself. (Heb 3:12-14; Heb 12:1-2).

Results In The Crown of Life. We are competing for an "*Imperishable crown*" (1 Co 9:25). The one who plays by the rules and wins will be "*Crowned*" (2 Ti, 2:5). Our "*Crown*" is eternal life (Rev. 2:10). receive "*The crown of life*" (Jms 1:12). ☞

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"NO LONGER CHILDREN. . ."

Greg Gwin

After seeing an exciting basketball game on TV, he decides he'd like to be a professional basketball player. A few days later, after hearing of a daring rescue from a burning building, he is convinced he wants to be a fireman. Not long after that he learns about men going into outer space, and he is sure that he really would love to become an astronaut.

What in the world is wrong with this guy? Why can't he decide on a career course and stick with it? Why is he always changing his mind about important things? The answer is simple: he's a child! It is inherent in children to frequently change their minds. They may be firmly convinced of something one day, and ready to do the opposite the next day. We understand that this is their nature. They will (hopefully) outgrow this tendency. And, when they do, we will say that they have "matured".

There are some that are spiritual "babes". In fact, everyone is in that category upon first obeying the gospel. Unfortunately, some never grow past that point (2 Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:12-14). These folks are forever troubled by something new or different that they hear. It might be something about our worship, or about the work of the church, or about a matter of morality (like divorce and remarriage), or ... you get the idea. These people can never be settled as to what they think about the important truths contained in God's word.

Let us put it as simply and directly as we can - GROW UP! Ephesians 4:14 urges us "that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine." You need to know what you believe, and you need to know why you believe it. If you hold a view, endorse a position, or would teach or recommend an "alternate view", you should have strong reasons for doing so. You should be ready to logically and rationally defend the position you espouse. If you can't do that, you're manifesting the fact that you are a spiritual child - immature - and you are likely to be "tossed to and fro" by whatever new thing comes along. GROW UP! -

From The Heart

Matthew 15:19-20. Jesus listed These Seven Things that Come From The Heart and Defile a Man...

- Evil Thoughts: Php 4:8-9
- Murders: Gal. 5:21; Rev 21:8; 1 Jn 3:15
- Adulteries: Mtt 19:9; Matt. 5:27-30
- Fornications: Heb 13:4; 1 Cor. 6:9
- Thefts: Eph 4:28
- False Witness: Eph 4:25; Col. 3:9; Pro. 6:16-17, 19
- Blasphemies: Mtt 12:31; Rev 13:5-6; Titus 3:1-2

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...Frank Anderson
Reading: Ezekiel 18:19-22
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Eli Todd
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Sam Miller
- Invitation.....Eli 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!*