

HELP, DON'T HINDER

Greg Gwin

What do you do when you see a fellow Christian make a mistake? It may be a simple error of judgment, or it could be a more serious blunder – a sin that can potentially send his soul into eternal hell. What will you do?

Actually there are several options open to you. You could ignore the situation totally. Or you might, in your own mind, ridicule his foolishness. If you're a little bolder, you could gossip with others about his error -- belittling him as you do so. You see, there are a number of things you could do.

But, of course, there is only one thing you should do -- there is only one God-ordained course of action. "He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:20). "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

The fact is that we all need the help, encouragement and strengthening that comes from our brethren. Sadly, too often we do things that hinder rather than help our brother when he is down.

The next time you are confronted with such a situation, remember that -- if you want to please God -- your choice is already made. If your brother has made a mistake, there can be no ignoring of the problem, no backbiting gossip, no thoughts of ridicule or humiliation. Go to your brother with the help he needs. Don't forget that you are certain to need this kind of help in the future, too! -

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows

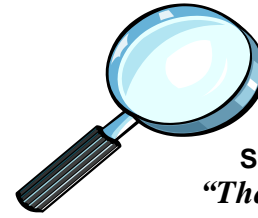
- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

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

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LESSONS FROM TRAGEDY

Michael Pickford


"The September 11 attacks were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda on the United States on the morning of September 11, 2001" (Wikipedia). During this attack, the famous Twin Towers were destroyed and an abundance of innocent lives were lost! This occurred fifteen years ago today. Song writers, Poets, and politicians have continued to keep us in reminder of this tragedy, both to honor the victims, and to remind us of certain crucial principles and lessons. The Bible contains many tragedies from which we learn lessons.

The Flood. Except for eight people, all human life was destroyed in this worldwide tragedy. God sent the flood, but it was really a "Man-made disaster" inasmuch as the reason God did it was due to mans' continually evil thoughts (Gen 6:5). God won't flood the earth again, but the flood serves as a reminder that He will someday destroy the earth with fire, and punish the disobedient with everlasting destruction (2 Pt 3:10-12; 2 Ths 1:7-9).

Sodom & Gomorrah. (Gen 19). God destroyed these wicked cities with fire and brimstone, but this too was a "Man-made disaster" inasmuch as God brought on the judgment due to their extreme wickedness and homosexuality (Gen 18:20; Jude 7). This tragedy serves as a reminder that if we don't repent, we too will suffer "The vengeance of eternal fire" (Jude 7; Mtt 11:23-24).

Tower of Siloam. Luke 13:1-5. All men suffer because of the general sinfulness of mankind on earth. Being innocent, Jesus still suffered due to man's sin. Those at Siloam were not worse sinners than anyone else. The lesson is about repentance. Unless we repent of our sins, we will perish with eternal destruction (vs 3, 5; 2 Ths 1:7-9).

Lot's Wife. Gen 19:26. Jesus actually instructs us to remember Lot's wife (Lk 17:32). She is a reminder of what happens to those who disobey God, seeking fulfillment in this life rather than seeking life in heaven. She also reminds us that we should continue pressing forward towards the eternal goal without falling back into sin (Lk 9:62).

James Beheaded. Acts 12:1-4. The righteous suffer in this world, often because of their righteousness! Anyone who believes otherwise hasn't read their New Testament. Those who don't understand this from the beginning set themselves up for a fall (Mt 13:20-21; Lk 14:25-33). 

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7 THINGS THAT PROMOTE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Michael Pickford

As Christians, our primary concern in this life should be to grow spiritually. We look for vitamins and foods that will promote bone health, heart health, brain function, et al. What about promoting spiritual growth! Here are seven things you can do to accomplish such...

1. **Read Your Bible.** A young preacher once asked an older preacher about the best thing he could do to grow spiritually and stay encouraged in his preaching. The older man replied, "Read your Bible." Daily Bible reading will keep you in tune with God, His word, and His will. Read daily in order to grow in grace and knowledge (Acts 17:11; 2 Peter 3:18).
2. **Pray Regularly.** Growing spiritually means growing closer to God. The best way to get closer to someone is to speak to them often. God communicates with you through his word (Bible reading), you communicate with God through prayer. Pray daily for acceptable results (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Daniel 6:10).
3. **Be Thankful.** Being thankful for our blessings will keep us in tune with our perception of God's reality. It will also keep us in mind of the fact that we depend solely upon God for our life, breath, and sustenance. Without Him we would be and have nothing. Every good gift comes from God (James 1:17). He holds our next breath in His hand (Daniel 5:23). Ungratefulness leads to bitterness, complaining, and dissatisfaction, while gratitude gives us unsurpassable peace within (Php 4:6-7). Thank God daily (1 Ths 5:18; Eph 5:20). "*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving*" (Col. 4:2).
4. **Examine Yourself.** Defeating illnesses and diseases often means catching them early enough to be successfully treated. This is why we many have physicals regularly, and why doctors recommend certain self examinations one can do at home daily to check for lumps, lesions, etc. This promotes healthy living. The same is true spiritually. We should examine ourselves regularly, identify spiritual problems early, and eliminate them. Make a list of faults you perceive within yourself (Dissatisfaction, talk too much, gossip, slander, poor attendance, weak giving, etc). Examine yourself daily to remain healthy in Christ (2 Cor 13:5).
5. **Visit Others.** Especially The aged! Visiting others will keep you in tune with their needs. It will encourage them, and make them feel cared for and special. It will help them grow spiritually as you encourage them. And it will work wonders for your emotional and spiritual psyche. Set up a regular visitation schedule and make notes as to who needs extra attention. Pure and undefiled religion is achieved by visiting orphans and widows in their trouble (Jms 1:27). Don't neglect the physically sick, the spiritually weak, and those who have fallen (Mtt 25:36; Heb 3:12-13; Gal 6:1-2; Jms 5:19-20).
6. **Attend Services & Bible Classes Regularly.** Attending is required by God for the purpose of exhorting and being exhorted (Heb 10:24-25). To promote spiritual growth! Teachers in the Bible classes were the Lord's idea in order to equip us for His work, edify us, unify us, and enhance our knowledge so as to protect us against religious error, to lead us to maturity (Eph 4:11-16).
7. **Help Someone With Their Needs.** If you have troubles, one of the best remedies is to find someone else with troubles, and help them with theirs! (Php 2:3-4). ☺

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: Luke 4:16-21
- 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

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!*