

## MISSING THE MARK

Michael Pickford

The story is told of an insurance man traveling to a farm to do business with a farmer. As he approached the farmhouse, he noticed a barn that had several targets painted in various places, each with an arrow right in the bull's-eye. He told the farmer, "You have excellent aim!" The farmer explained, "Naw, I shoot the arrows first, then I paint the targets around them."

I'm afraid this is the way many approach sin. You see, sin is a missing of the mark. God's mark! Too many in religion want to tell God what His will is rather than the other way around. Folks today want to practice homosexuality, social drink, dress immodestly, or miss church services on a regular basis. They then want to go to the Bible and try to justify these things. It doesn't work this way, as the Bible condemns all of these things (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Pt 4:3-4; 1 Tim 2:9-10; Heb 10:25)

Again, "Sin" comes from an old archery word meaning, "A missing of the mark." The Bible defines sin as "Lawlessness" (1 Jn 3:4). God has given us the law through Christ and to transgress it is to lose our fellowship with God (2 Jn 9).

Let's humbly submit to God's word and will so that we do not miss the mark, and miss heaven! 

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### 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](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

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry

Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

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

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## GOSPEL MEETINGS

Michael Pickford

A Gospel Meeting is a special series of lessons hosted by a local church in a particular area. Generally, a visiting preacher from out of town does the preaching. Sometimes the preaching is done by several different preachers. Many formats are chosen by different churches to use to conduct their meetings. Our upcoming meeting will run from Sunday through Friday. The name is derived from the activity; we meet together to proclaim the Gospel. Our purpose in this Gospel Meeting is two-fold: (1) The edification, exhortation, and encouragement of the saints (Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:24, 25). (2) To teach the Gospel to those who are not members of the Lord's church (1 Thessalonians 1:8). We can help ensure the success of our Gospel Meeting by...

**Praying.** "Pray without ceasing..." (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Pray for the preacher conducting the meeting. Pray for the members that they will have health and desire to attend all of the services without letting worldly events get in the way. Pray that parents will teach their children an essential lesson by showing them the things of God are more important than even important things in this life. Pray for yourself that you may have and make opportunities to invite people to the services, etc.

**Planning.** Much of the success of a Gospel meeting lies in the attendance of the local members. Don't plan things that will keep you out of town during the meeting. We need you here! When you're absent, two things can happen. (1) Members are discouraged by smaller numbers. When I come to services and very few of the members are there, my heart sinks; but when there is a good crowd, my heart is encouraged. (2) I have seen incidents where people visited from the community and the member who invited them wasn't even there at that service! There are emergencies and other things that may be unavoidable; but other than these, we really need to plan to be at all of the services of the Gospel Meeting (Matt 6:33).

**Preparing.** We can prepare by inviting people to the services. Use the prepared flyers to distribute. If you need more, we can make as many as you can use. See your email or our website for an electronic version of the Flyer. Share on Facebook, email it to friends, etc. Let's be diligent to ensure success in this Gospel Meeting! 

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Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, [mpickford3@comcast.net](mailto:mpickford3@comcast.net)

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

## SOME MISCONCEPTIONS REGARDING PRAYER

Michael Pickford

Prayer is one of God's wonderful gifts to His children, a true blessing in Christ (Eph 1:3). Only His faithful children are assured that their prayers are heard by Him (1 Pt 3:12; Jms 5:16). John clarified that the confidence one can have that God hears his prayers is located "In Him." That is, in Christ, hence, one must be in Christ, a Christian, in order to be confident that God hears his prayers (1 John 5:14).

Sadly, there are many misconceptions and errors regarding prayer...

1) **"I shouldn't pray because I've sinned."** It's true that God's ears are not open to those who are rebellious against His will; who live their lives contrary to His word by choice, but what about the devoted Christian who stumbles and gives in to temptation? Some feel that they are now unworthy to pray, that God would not hear them. On the contrary, when a Christian sins, the very thing God wants him to do is pray! When Simon sinned in Acts 8, he was told to "Pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you" (vs 22). When we sin, we must confess it to God in prayer and ask His forgiveness, and He will forgive! (1 Jn 1:7-9).

2) **"One enters the church through prayer."** Denominational teaching states that one becomes a part of the Lord's church through prayer. But the Bible states that first century Christians entered the church through baptism. "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (1 cor 12:13). The body is the church (Eph 1:22-23), hence, they were baptized into the church (See Acts 2:41, 47).

3) **"One gets saved by saying the sinner's prayer."** Nothing in the New Testament indicates that anyone became a christian by "Asking the Lord Jesus into their heart" through the "Sinner's prayer." The "Sinner's prayer" is a man-made device, springing from the "Alter call" where folks would "Pray through" to their salvation. The Bible tells us clearly how one has his sins washed away and "Calls on the name of the Lord." "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

4) **"We can release dead saints from purgatory through prayer."** Catholicism teaches that when some die, depending on how good or bad they were, they will go for a time to a place of torments called "Purgatory." After a certain amount of time, their sins are "Burned off" and then they can go to heaven. Or, people still living on earth can "Pray them out" of purgatory. None of this is biblical. One goes to heaven or hell based only upon what he did while living in his body (2 Cor 5:10). We are instructed not to pray for those who have died in sin (1 Jn 5:16-17).

5) **"It is vain to repeat a prayer."** Jesus taught that it is wrong to use "Vain repetitions" for the purpose of soliciting praise from men. He condemned "Vain repetitions," not "repetitions." He Himself used repetition in prayer (Matt 26:44).

6) **"It is wrong to stand while praying."** I've recently read some statements on Facebook condemning the idea of asking the congregation to "Stand while we pray." The Tax collector was "standing afar off" when he prayed the prayer that justified him (Luke 18:13).

7) **"We can pray to saints."** Catholics will pray to Mary and other dead saints. The Bible teaches we are to pray to the Father and that Christ is our only mediator, not Mary or some other "Saint" (Mtt 6:9; 1 Tim 2:5). 

# Gospel Meeting & Singing

October  
15-21

Preaching: Alex Ogden

*Southside church of Christ*

1167 S. Lowry Street, **Smyrna, TN** 37167

(Located on Murfreesboro Rd. Right next to the Nissan Fitness Center)

For Directions Call (615) 785-0646

Singing

Sat, October 15

7 pm

Everyone Welcome!

Gospel Meeting

October 16-21

Sunday: 9:00 & 10 am

Sunday: 6:00 pm

Monday – Friday: 7 pm

Bring A Bible! Bring A Friend!



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



### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd  
Reading: Psalm 8:1-9
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....John Nelson  
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....Kenny Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Michael Pickford

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

**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!*