

WHAT ARE YOU AIMING FOR?

Michael Pickford

- 1) We Should Aim To Avoid Sin: 1 Jn 2:1-2
- 2) We Should Aim To Please Christ: 2 Co 5:9
- 3) We Should Aim To Preach The Gospel:
Rom 15:20
- 4) We Should Aim To Get A Job: 1 Ths 4:11
- 5) We Should Aim To Mind Our Own
Business: 1 Ths 4:11; 1 Tim 5:13
- 6) We Should Aim For Christ: Heb 12:1-2
- 7) We Should Aim For Our Eternal Prize:
Phil 3:14 

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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REMINDERS

Michael Pickford

We're all forgetful. Some are more forgetful than others, and some grow more forgetful with age, but the fact is, we are always needing reminders about various different things. To fail to recognize this can get us into all types of difficult situations, so we have all developed our own little ways to remind ourselves of the important things that we need to take care of in our lives. No reminders are as important than those of spiritual truths. Paul recognized that the Corinthians needed a reminder of the truth (1 Cor. 4:17), and Peter refused to neglect to remind his readers of the truth, even though he knew they were established in it (2 Peter 1:12-13). Let's consider some essential reminders...

To Be Subject To Rulers. "Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities" (Titus 3:1). We may forget due to oppression and immoral leaders.

Of Christ's Death. God recognized the need for us to have a constant reminder of Christ's sacrifice for us, so the Lord instituted the Lord's supper to be observed each Sunday in order to remember His body and His blood being shed for us (1 Cor. 11:24-25; Acts 20:7).

Of Christ's Resurrection. "Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead" (2 Tim 2:8). Without reflecting often on Christ's resurrection, we might lose hope of our own future resurrection.

Not To Deny Christ. "Remind them of these things" (2 Timothy 2:14). Of what things? "If we deny Him, He also will deny us" (vs 12). We may not speak the words, "I deny Christ," but we can deny Him by not living righteously in the midst of a wicked world.

That There Would be Mockers. Jude 17-19. We sometimes get discouraged that so few serve God faithfully while so many deny Him and His ways, often while claiming to follow Him. Remember that the Bible says this would be the case. Remember this the next time you hear of a long faithful Christian leaving the church. Don't lose your hope.

That you Can Be Lost. Jude 5-7. We need to remember that we, as Christians, can so sin as to lose our salvation. Just when we feel we are at our strongest, we can stumble (1 Cor. 10:12). We must urgently continue to do those things that God said we must do in order to stand strong: Daily Bible reading (Acts 17:L11; Regular attendance (Heb 10:25); Daily encouragement of one another (Heb 3:12-13), etc 

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Do You Believe In Ghosts?

Michael Pickford

From the hit movie “Ghost Busters,” and popular TV programs such as “My Ghost Story,” “Ghost Adventures,” “The Ghost Whisperer,” and Sci-fi’s “Ghost Hunters,” etc. it is evident that many Americans have an obsession with ghosts. In an expansive study on American piety released in September, 2010, researchers at Baylor University found 37 percent of those surveyed believed places can be haunted. 90% percent of those surveyed claimed an affiliation with a congregation, denomination, or other religious group.

But the big question is, are ghosts real? From scripture, let’s consider the two possible options as to the source of ghosts.

First, after humans die, can their spirits remain on earth to haunt particular places and people? According to Scripture, when one dies, his spirit separates from his body (James 2:26). After this, the spirit returns to God who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12:7). There are two views as to what God does with these spirits until judgment day arrives. Some believe that all spirits still go into the Hadean world, either to paradise or torments, which was certainly the case when Jesus walked the earth (Luke 16:19-31; Luke 23:43; John 20:17). Others maintain that at some point, perhaps at Jesus’ ascension, the “paradise” section of the Hadean world was moved to heaven, as Paul spoke of death as a time when one goes to be with the Lord (Philippians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8), but “Torments” and its occupants remained in the Hadean world, waiting to be cast into the lake of fire at judgment (Revelation 20:14). Regardless of which position one takes on this, the soul does not remain upon the earth or revisit earth in either case, nor can it (Luke 16:26-31).

After death, a person no longer interacts with those on earth. Ghosts are often portrayed and described as exhibiting characteristics such as love, hatred, or envy. But Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 says of those who have died, “*Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun.*” “*Under the sun*” means on the earth, and once dead, one’s spirit has no share of anything on earth.

Second, could ghosts be spirits other than those of deceased humans, such as demons or fallen angels? Many believe the demons of the Bible are fallen angels. Scripture seems to support this concept. There was a time when these demons were allowed to possess humans on earth (and even animals on occasion). This time was during Jesus’ life on earth, seemingly so that Jesus could show His power over them by casting them out so easily. But they are no longer allowed to inhabit the earth (Zechariah 13:2). Rather than being allowed to roam the earth as ghosts, fallen angels are being held in chains in darkness until judgment (2 Peter 2:4-5; Jude 6).

Instead of concerning themselves with ghosts, Christians should concern themselves with overcoming the evil influences of Satan to sin; because through these, Satan is walking about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). 🔍

“RATHER”

Michael Pickford

There are some things We Must Do Rather Than The Other...

- 1) Be Humble Rather Than Self Righteous: Lk 18:14
- 2) Love Light Rather Than Darkness: Jn 3:19
- 3) Give Place To Wrath Rather Being Vengeful: Rom 12:19
- 4) Obey God Rather Than Men When Laws Would Force us To Disobey God: Acts 5:29
- 5) Use Our Mouths To Give Thanks Rather Than To Speak Filthy or Foolish Words: Eph 5:4
- 6) Place More Stock In Developing A Good Reputation Rather Than In Obtaining Riches: Pro 22:1
- 7) Reprove Those Practicing Evil & Error Rather Than Giving In And Going Along With Them: Ephesians 5:11 🔍

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell
Reading: Acts 17:16-21
- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....Michael Pickford
 - Serve.....Kenny Todd
 - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- 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!*