

“I CAN READ YOUR MIND”

Michael Pickford

We sometimes hear folks say, “I can read your mind,” or, “I know what you’re thinking.” We usually use it in a situation where we know the person we’re speaking to very well, we know from experience how they act and react in a given situation, so we can’t really peak miraculously into their thoughts and see exactly what they’re thinking. But some claim they can really read minds and many believe them, even paying them money to do so.

The truth is, no one can miraculously read the minds and thoughts of others. We can make judgments, sometimes accurate ones, based on the situation, but we can’t read minds. The Bible says, “*For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?*” (1 Cor 2:11). It’s a rhetorical question, and the implied answer is “No man!”

Many people, however, including thousands who claim to be Christians, will utilize the services of those who use professionally the crystal ball, tarot cards, and others means of reading minds, thoughts, lives, and futures. We must instill into our young people that these types of things, though commercially and socially accepted, are not pleasing to God (Gal 5:20).

We should concern ourselves rather with the fact that God can read our minds. He knows our thoughts, secret and otherwise, and He will judge us on the last day based upon them and our actions. (Romans 2:16). 

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

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- www.defendthegospel.com
 - 1st 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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ON “PRACTICAL JOKES”

Michael Pickford

“*Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, Is the man who deceives his neighbor, And says, “I was only joking!”*”

– Proverbs 26:18-19

I am not a fan of “practical Jokes.” I don’t dislike them because of personal experiences, though I have had some unpleasant experiences with practical jokers, but rather because of some things said in scripture.

1) The Bible says The Practical Joker Is The Kind Of Man You Would Want To Avoid. Read the Proverbs cited above. The joker is compared to a man who throws firebrands, arrows, and death. This is not the type of person folks want to be around. After all, you never know when your turn will come around for him to “Prank” you. And practical jokes are no fun when you are on the receiving end of them.

2) The Bible Calls It Deception. Again, as per the Proverbs referenced above, practical jokes often involve some type of deception in order to “Fool” the victim of the joke. This proverb doesn’t speak of deception as a good thing. It shouldn’t, because God condemns the concepts of lying and deceiving (Eph. 4:25; Rev 21:8).

3) Practical Jokes Violate The “Golden Rule.” I’m speaking of the Lord’s words in Matthew 7:12, “*Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the law and the prophets.*” While some victims may “Laugh it off” when they have been “Pranked,” did they really enjoy it? I doubt it. Practical jokes may come across on the “silver screen” as being entertaining and funny, but they do not translate to “golden moments ” in real life. Victims are usually humiliated, or even harmed by practical jokes. Why would you want to entertain yourself at the expense of others? I’ve heard folks speak of “Harmless practical jokes,” but do they really exist?

4) Practical Jokes Encourage Vengeance. Often, the victim(s) of a practical joke decide to “Teach the joker a lesson” by pulling a prank of their own, sometimes with the hope of curing the practical joker “Once and for all!” Is this how the Lord would want us to deal with such thing? Remember, vengeance belongs to the Lord (Romans 12:17-20). We should “Repay no one evil for evil” (Rom. 12:17). Instead, we must strive to “Overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). 

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OF TEACHING, PREACHING AND WITNESSING. . .

Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

When I was a youngster, it was not unusual to hear people “testifying” and “witnessing” at various denominations’ worship services. During the last several years, we hear the terms used more and more among those with whom I am associated. Such testimony usually consisted of telling of a supernatural “salvation” experience or telling what the Lord allegedly had done for them in general.

In the basic sense of the words, people today are not in a position to “testify” or “witness” for the Lord. They have neither heard, seen, nor touched him as some in the first century had done and were able to be true witnesses. The apostles “testified” or “witnessed” what they had seen, heard, handled as well as messages they received from him through the Holy Spirit. Their testimony was verified to their listeners by the signs and wonders which they did. Today we have to depend on their “testimony” and “witness” in their New Testament writings. We can preach and teach their testimony with confidence because they not only gave but confirmed their testimony by the miracles they did.

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?” (Hebrews 2:1-4 NKJV)

The best that modern day “witnesses” can do is to testify as to how they **feel** about the Lord and what they **feel** he may have done for them. Sometimes they testify as to the changes that the Lord has made in their lives. All of this really means nothing without objective evidence. Anyone of any religious persuasion can give this kind of “witness.” They can tell what they **feel** about the Lord and what they **feel** his has done for them. They can point to changes in their lives and attribute it the work of the Lord.

This is why it is better for teachers/preachers to spend their time in relaying the testimony of truly confirmed witnesses to their hearers rather giving their own subjective testimony. If one decides to give his own experience, he should give the objective proof (book, chapter, and verse) that he followed to gain his experience. Then we and those who hear us will “*built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone*” (Eph. 2:20) rather the subjective claims of modern “witnesses.” -

TO BE CONTINUED

Michael Pickford

There are several things the Christian must not stop doing; but unfortunately, many have ceased doing these things. The child of God must...

1. Continue In The Faith: Acts 14:22; Rev 2:14
2. Continue In The Grace of God: Acts 13:43
3. Continue In Good Works: Titus 3:14; Gal 6:9-10
4. Continue In The Love of Christ: John 15:9
5. Continue In The Things Learned: 2 Timothy 3:14
6. Continue in The Pattern of Sound Words: 2 Timothy 1:13
7. Continue In Prayer: Colossians 4:2; Luke 18:1

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Tony Jenkins
Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Todd
 - Serve.....Michael Pickford
 - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord's Table.....Tony Jenkins

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

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!*