

CASTING OUR SHADOW

Michael Pickford

In Acts 5:15, we learn that the sick were laid out in the streets in hopes that the shadow of Peter passing might fall on some of them. The implication is that this would heal them of their illness. Later, we learn that handkerchiefs and clothes were brought from Paul to heal the sick (Acts 19:11-12).

One segment of Justin's school in Kindergarten was an exercise in making shadows. He learned the basic facts of what was necessary to make a shadow: a light, and an object. If you walk in the light, you will cast a shadow.

Peter's shadow miraculously healed people, but the age of miraculous spiritual gifts has ceased (1 Corinthians 13). However, God calls upon us to walk in the light (1 Jn 1:7). This is figuratively language, teaching that we must walk in , that is, live according to the teachings of Christ in His gospel, the New Testament (2 John 9). If we do this, we will be casting a shadow, so to speak. This "shadow" we will be casting by walking in the light represents our influence on those around us. Just as Peter's shadow healed folks from their physical disease, our "shadow" from walking in the light should serve as a influence that will hopefully cause people to want to come to the Lord and be healed spiritually.

Jesus taught the concept that the way we live before men can serve to lead them to God. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). The Holy Spirit reinforced this concept through Peter in 1 Peter 2:11-12.

Are you walking in the light, casting your shadow of righteous influence upon those in the world? 

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
- 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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MY TONGUE

Michael Pickford

The Bible places a great emphasis upon the tongue. The way we use our mouths can do many things. Our words can help calm a storm, strengthen a weakness, comfort a pain, Stir up trouble, justify us, or lead us to eternal condemnation (Mtt 12:36-37; Jms 3:1-12). It is our responsibility, with the Lord's help, to master our mouths, to tame our tongues and bring them into subjection to the Lord and His teachings.

1) My Speaking Tongue. I should make good and regular use of my tongue when it comes to teaching the gospel to the lost (Acts 8:4; Col 4:6), praying (1 Ths 5:17-18; Php 4:6-7; 1 Jn 5:14-15), being thankful (1 Ths 5:18; Col 4:2; Eph 5:20; 1 Tim 2:1-2), exhorting my brethren (Heb 3:12-13), and speaking kind and helpful words to others (Prov 25:11; 15:23).

2) My Silent Tongue. There are many wicked and sinful ways in which we could use our tongues. We must avoid these at all cost. We must not use our tongues to slander or gossip (Romans 1:29-30; 1 Tim. 5:13), To tell dirty jokes (Gal. 5:19, lewdness; Col 3:8), to blaspheme (Col 3:8), to lie and deceive (Eph 4:25; Rev 21:8), To jest coarsely (Eph 5:4; Prov 26:19), to vent malice and hatred (Col 3:8), to use filthy language (Eph 5:4; Col 3:8), or to do what we often call "venting." "A fool vents all his feelings, But a wise man holds them back." We must also seek to avoid complaining (1 Cor. 10:10).

3) My Singing Tongue. God has specified the kind of music he wants in our worship to Him. He has commanded that we sing, speaking with our tongues. "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord" (Eph 5:19; also see Col 3:16). We sing in order to praise God and to teach and encourage one another in our faith. Ad individuals, singing can also serve to increase our joy, or to sooth our spirits (Jms 5:13). Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

There is always a need for us to be reminded about our tongues, and the ways they can be used and abused. 

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ON BORROWING MONEY

Michael Pickford

I suppose the main purpose of this article is to address the question, "Is it sinful to borrow money, or to take out a loan?" Romans 13:8 has sometimes been referred to by some in order to say that borrowing money is sinful. Let's make some observations.

1) Most (If not all) of us have some types of debt. It may be a house mortgage, a vehicle loan, or money we've borrowed for the purpose of paying off medical bills. So we might seek to justify borrowing money by the fact that most Christians have done so. But this is using the wrong standard. Just because everyone is doing it, this doesn't necessarily justify it (Ex 23:2).

2) Being in debt is akin to slavery. We all know the burden of being in debt to one degree or another. We know how bad it feels when we get our paycheck, only to look at the kitchen table piled up with bills screaming, "Pay me or else!" The wise man wrote, "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." So it certainly is a nice feeling to be debt free.

3) We must not force scripture into a contradiction. When we come upon any statement of scripture in the Bible, that statement must be understood in a way that will not contradict other plain passages of scripture. Jesus said, "From him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away" (Matthew 5:42). Now if Jesus and His Gospel condemns taking out a loan or borrowing money, this verse certainly doesn't reflect it! If it is sinful to borrow money then it is certainly sinful to lend it, yet Jesus instructs us to lend to those who want to borrow from us!

4) Romans 13:8 has an immediate context! The verse is found in the midst of an exhortation to love others. The NIV actually captures the essence of the verse, "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another." Clinton Hamilton, in his commentary on Romans wrote, "Owe (*opheilete*) is present active imperative. One may have incurred a debt which if due in the present must be paid because that is the appointed time for it to be paid. Until that point, it is not due. One must not be in arrears in the payment of a debt. However, an exception is made in one instance in that one always owes the debt to love another." So the passage would not condemn taking out a loan if the borrower has means, opportunity, and intent, along with a manageable schedule, to pay it back, often by monthly installments. Psalm 37:21 supports this, "The wicked borrows and does not repay..." The verse doesn't say that borrowing is wicked, but that borrowing without paying back is wicked. In this sense we are to "Owe no one anything."

5) There is a time, depending on the individual's situation and credit score, when one feels that borrowing may be the best way to exercise good stewardship. For example, One may choose to get a loan to purchase a house, with the end result being ownership of property, as opposed to paying rent (sometimes higher than mortgage payments) where the end result is having nothing to show for the investment.

Conclusion: If you borrow, borrow responsibly, make your payments on time, and you will not be in violation of Romans 13:8. ☞

BROTHERLY LOVELESSNESS

Michael Pickford

We can practice lovelessness towards our brother...

1. **By Failing to Rebuke him when he sins:** Lk 17:3
2. **By Failing to withdraw from him when he will not repent,** 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Ths 3:14-15
3. **By failing to set a godly example before him:** Matthew 18:6-7
4. **By not being sensitive to his weaknesses:** 1 Corinthians 8:12-13
5. **By not offering him regular encouragement:** Hebrews 3:12-13
6. **By forsaking the assemblies:** Hebrews 10:24-25
7. **By not helping him when he is in need:** 1 John 3:16-18 ☞

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Sam Miller
Reading: Exodus 17:8-13
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Tony Jenkins
Serve.....Frank Anderson
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

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!*