

AN UNWORTHY PARADE

Michael Pickford

Reading the title of this article one might think I'm talking about parades that are associated with such ungodly things as Mardi Gra, which is nothing more than a drunken festival. Many other such parades exist and christians have no business participating in such (1 Peter 4:3-5)!

But I've got a different parade in mind in this article. Paul wrote, "*Love does not parade itself, is not puffed up*" (1 Corinthians 13:4). There's an old story (untrue, I hope) that tells of a preacher who stood up one Sunday morning and announced, "For this morning's sermon, I've written a lesson on pride; and in my estimation, it's the best sermon ever written." We all know people who seem to be all caught up in themselves and their abilities and talents. They have the attitude that its their world, we're just living in it. No one enjoys being around a braggart. When one puts himself on parade it's embarrassing and hurtful.

Humility is not thinking less of ourselves; it's thinking more of others. God doesn't want us going around being discouraged and putting ourselves down. But He also doesn't want us going around parading ourselves to others. He wants us to develop more talents and strive to accomplish great things in the kingdom, but not for the purpose of gaining praise from men (Matthew 6:1-18).

Jesus had a humble mindset and we are enjoined to develop the same (Philippians 2:5). This can be accomplished by letting "*nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself*" (Php 2:3). 

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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"WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

Michael Pickford

When Sarai gave her maidservant to her husband Abram for the purpose of bearing a child it led to nothing but trouble. After the deed was done Sarai became despised in Hagar's eyes. Sarai dealt harshly with Hagar so Hagar fled from her presence and intended to run off. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Hagar and asked her, "Where are you going?" (Genesis 16:8). The Lord was good to Hagar and promised her a great blessing. However, I want to focus on the question He asked her. "*Where are you going?*" If the Lord still spoke audibly to us today, I wonder if He wouldn't ask similar questions of us.

1. **Where are you going... To church?** That is, what type of church have you joined yourself to? Is it the Lord's church? If you believe it is, do they refer to themselves as such? There are thousands of different denominations that insist on calling themselves by man-made names. I prefer what the Bible says, "*The churches of Christ greet you*" (Romans 16:16). Christ promised to build the church (Mtt 16:16-18), He built the church (Acts 2:47), He shed His blood for it (Acts 20:28), He is the Head of it (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23), and He is its savior (Ephesians 5:23). It's His church! Why call it by any other name? Yes, the name does matter (Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 1:12-13). Remember the Lord's words, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted" (Matthew 15:13).
2. **Where are you going... To entertain yourself?** It seems that our culture and society has more options for entertainment than any other place and time. Unfortunately, much of that entertainment is filled with things that put Jesus on the cross: Lewdness, lust, immodesty, nudity, sexual immorality, filthy language, etc. What's more unfortunate is that many who claim the name of Christ still insist on entertaining themselves with such. Clean and decent entertainment is more difficult to find but the rewards make the search worth it. Let's not "*approve of those who practice*" such things (Romans 1:32). Let's resolve to "*Abhor what is evil. "Cling to what is good"*" (Romans 12:9).
3. **Where are you going... In Eternity?** There are only two destinations to choose from: Heaven and hell (Mtt 7:13-14; Jn 5:28-29; Mtt 25:46). Where are you going? Those who do not obey the gospel are destined for hell (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Those who obey the gospel are destined for eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:8-9). If you died today, where would you go? 

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Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: Spiritual Success

Weekly Memory Verse: Joshua 1:8

Introduction: There are tens of thousands of books on Success on topics ranging from financial success to success at losing weight. Somewhere in the midst of this sea of success books the idea of spiritual success has been overlooked, and this is the area in which it is most essential that we find success. But even here, many have attempted to write success books, most of them falling miserably short in guiding the reader towards their goal. Joshua chapter one verses 5-9 is the best book for spiritual success ever written. Here we find the five essentials to finding spiritual success. This week, let's discover and investigate these five things and pray that we can implement them into our lives so that we may find true spiritual success.

Monday: Realize That God Is With You.

1. Joshua 1:5. The Lord said, *"No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you."* The most successful people will be those who draw strength and encouragement from those around them. God is around us!
2. What promise Jesus made before ascending to heaven? (Matt 28:20).
3. Acts 18:9-10. What promise did Jesus make to Paul here? Would you conclude that Paul went on to be highly successful in his spiritual life?
4. What was the last thing the Lord told Joshua in these few verses? (Joshua 1:9).

Tuesday: Look To Your Reward

1. Joshua 1:6. The Lord said, *"Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them."* It is nearly impossible for one gain his reward if he loses sight of what that reward is in the first place.
2. Paul the apostle accomplished unbelievable feats in his spiritual life while overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles. What did he say he did to be successful (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). What do you think he meant by "the things which are not seen?"

Wednesday: Be Strong And Courageous

1. The Lord said, "Be strong and of good courage," Joshua 1:6. "Only be strong and very courageous," Joshua 1:7. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed," Joshua 1:9.

2. Acts 18:9-10. What did the Lord tell Paul NOT to be?
3. 1 Corinthians 15:13; Ephesians 6:10: What did Paul tell those at Corinth to do? Paul told those at Ephesus where to find this strength. Where was it?

Thursday: Study The Bible Daily.

1. Joshua 1:8. The Lord said, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night..."
2. Acts 17:11: Why were they searching the scriptures? How often did they search the scriptures?
3. 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15; Psalm 119:11: What did Paul tell Timothy to do? What did Peter say we must be ready to do? What do we need in order to be prepared to do this? Why did the Psalmist hide God's word in his heart?

Friday: Obey God's Word.

1. Joshua 1:7. What were they to observe? What were they not to do? What are the results? What are we to observe? (2 John 9).
2. Joshua 1:8: How much of what was written were they to observe? What would be the result?
3. Matthew 7:21: Whose will must we do? What is the result?
4. Hebrews 5:8-9: Who is the author of eternal salvation? What must we do in order to receive salvation from Him?

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell
Reading: Matthew 15:10-14
- Song Leader.....Eli Todd
- 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 Johnson
- Lord's Table.....Kenny Johnson

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!**