

THE POWER OF IRRITATION

Michael Pickford

Someone once wrote, "In some Western States, in order to make things grow, it is necessary to irritate the land."

I sometimes wonder if many professing Christians hold their beliefs too lightly. Maybe we just take our faith for granted. We may sometimes meditate on softball questions like, "Why do I go to church?" or, "What do I believe about God and His existence?" Our answer to these questions are readily available in our minds. But how deep is our faith, really? Are we really prepared to "give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you?" Are we ready to contend for the faith? (1 Peter 3:15; Jude 1:3).

"As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend" (Proverbs 27:17). Perhaps if someone were to irritate our minds with sharp questions our knowledge of the Bible and God's will would grow. We tend to avoid the tough questions. We complain if the Bible class material we're studying is too complicated or the questions are too difficult. But these difficult questions cause us to do some hard thinking about what we believe and why we believe it. Seeking discussions with those we know to be more biblically literate helps to mold our faith into more of the kind of shape God desires it to be in. We grow!

We can't drink spiritual milk our whole lives and expect to be what God wants us to be. At some point we need to add meat to that milk. We need to stay reminded of the elementary principles of our faith, but we also must press on towards perfection (Hebrews 6:1). Let us ever be studying daily and diligently so that we might show ourselves approved to God (2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11). 

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

Volume 13, Number 34

September 03, 2017

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?

David Eldridge

Paul asked, "What does the Scripture say?" (Rom. 4:3). You'll often hear talk about needing book, chapter, and verse for things taught and practiced. Why ask, "What does the Scripture say?"

Because This Was Jesus' Appeal: Jesus often cited Scripture (cf. Lk. 4:21; Jn. 7:38). Jesus expected others to be concerned about Scripture, asking, "Have you not even read this Scripture" (Mk. 12:10).

Because This Was The Appeal Of Inspired Men: Paul asked, "What does the Scripture say?" (Rom. 4:3; Gal. 4:30). James spoke of what "the Scripture says" (Jas. 4:5). Peter wrote of things "contained in the Scripture" (1 Pet. 2:6).

Because The Scripture Is Inspired By God: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16). This is our reason for appealing to Scripture. Reading the Scriptures, we are not reading men's words, but the words of God (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

Because The Scriptures Are Profitable: Paul penned, "All Scripture...is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Because Not Knowing The Scripture Causes Destruction: Speaking to the Sadducees, Jesus said, "Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?" (Mk. 12:24). You see, when one does not know what the Scripture says, they err. This error that comes from a failure to know the Scripture will result in destruction. To those of old, God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos. 4:6). -

Daily Bible Study

by Michael Pickford

This Week's Theme: Elders

Weekly Memory Verse: Acts 14:23

Introduction: God does not allow for men to organize the local church in any way they chose to do so. He has specified how it is to be organized. Philippians 1:1 gives us the basic, full organization. Any organization bigger than the one specified in the New Testament is too big. In Philippians 1:1, we read that the local church should be composed of "Saints," "Overseers," and "Deacons." "Overseers," or "Bishops" are one and the same as "Elders, presbyters, pastors," and "Shepherds" (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-2). In this lesson, we want to focus our attention on the elders and discuss things like their qualifications, their role, their limitations, and their responsibilities.

Monday: Men Must Meet Certain Qualifications Before Being Appointed, and they must continue to meet them.

1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9

1. In the Timothy passage, the men are referred to as "Bishop(s)," but in Titus they are referred to as "Elders." Considering that the qualifications in both passages are virtually the same, what conclusion can we draw?
2. Would it be acceptable for a woman to serve as an elder? Why or why not?
3. Must a man meet all of these qualifications before he can serve as an elder? Must a man continue to meet all of these qualifications while serving as an elder?
4. Study each qualification, compare the two lists.

Tuesday: There Must Be A Plurality of Elders In A Local Church, and their rule is limited to that local church.

Acts 14:23; Acts 20:17; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1

1. Are elders always mentioned in a plurality in the passages above? Can you find a passage where we can read that a local church only has one elder? What conclusion can we draw from this? (Consider 2 John 9).
2. The "Pastor System" that exist among some denominations allows for a setting in which a single man rules over a local church. Does this align with the pattern given in the New Testament?
3. Think: What would be some dangers associated with a local church having only one elder as opposed to having a plurality of elders?
4. Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2: Which "flock" were the elders to take heed to themselves regarding? Which "flock of God" did Peter tell the elders to shepherd?

Wednesday: The Work Of Elders Is Demanding.

1 Timothy 3:5; Titus 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17; Acts 20:28, 32; 1 Peter 5:1-3

1. From these passages, list at least seven responsibilities (duties) the elders have in relation to the flock (Local church).

Thursday: Elders Do Not Make Law, They Rule According To Christ's Law (Doctrine).

1. Acts 20:32: What two things did God commend these elders to?
2. 2 John 9: Does this verse apply to elders too?
3. Colossians 3:17: What if a local eldership made demands of the local flock that were not New Testament based?

Friday: Elders Must Be Respected and Obeyed.

1. 1 Peter 5:5: What did Peter instruct the younger people to do?
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13: What were these saints to do regarding those who were "over" them in the Lord? What would this result in? (Last sentence in verse 13).
3. Hebrews 13:7: What were these saints to "follow"?
4. Hebrews 13:17: Who were these saints to "Obey" and "be submissive" to?

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell
Reading: Matthew 15:10-14
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....Jeff Isbell
Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

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

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Jeff Isbell
- 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!***