

## WHY SING?

Michael Pickford

I'm talking about singing spiritual songs. Psalm hymns and spiritual songs. Why do such a thing?

- 1) **Not for entertainment.** There's not a word in the New Testament about singing religious songs in an entertainment type setting.
- 2) **It's a command.** We have been commanded to sing. God didn't command us to sing well, but we must all sing. It's a mutual action in the phrase "One another." (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16)
- 3) **To Imitate Christ.** Jesus sang praises with His disciples (Matt 26:36) We are to walk just as he walked (1 Jn 2:6).
- 4) **To Teach.** God never authorized the playing of a mechanical instrument in worship to Him. Such an instrument produces no words and therefore fails to teach. We sing in order to teach (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16).
- 5) **To Admonish.** It's important that everyone sing so that we can admonish and be admonished by our brethren. That is, so we can be built up and encouraged (Col 3:16)
- 6) **To praise the Lord.** We are to sing "to the Lord" (Eph 5:19). Singing is an act of worship.
- 7) **To express joy.** Even in our personal day to day lives, we can sing to express joy. If anyone is merry, let him sing psalms" (Jms 5:13). 

### 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](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
  - 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
  - Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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## HOW DO PEOPLE WANDER?

Michael Pickford

James 5:19-20 speaks of Christians who "wander from the truth." How tragic! How does this happen? If we can determine how it happens it will go a long way toward preventing it. Consider some reasons why people wander...

**Through Ignorance.** Ignorance has always been a destroying factor among God's people. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hos. 4:6). This can be prevented with daily study (Acts 17:11) and attending the worship services and Bible classes with God's people (Heb 10:25; Eph 4:11-16).

**Through Deception.** Being deceived by false teachers causes folks to wander from the truth. This is one reason why we should avoid being ignorant. We should test what folks are teaching with God's word (1 Jn 4:1). And we should love truth more than error (2 Ths 2:9-12).

**Through Weakness.** The spirit of man is willing but the flesh is weak. So said the Lord (Matt 26:41). We need strength to overcome our fleshly desires. One way we can gain this strength is through prayer (Matt 26:36). Another way is through daily exhortation (Heb 3:12-13). Still another is through attending the assemblies faithfully (Heb 10:24-25). Be strong in the Lord (Eph 6:10ff).

**Through Covetousness.** Folks stray because they love the things of the world to the point of covetousness. John warns us not to love the world or the things in the world (1 Jn 2:15-16). We must come to understand that We must "Take heed and beware of covetousness" remembering that "one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." (Lk 12:15).

**Through Association.** If we chose to run with the wrong kind of people, their influence can lead us away from the truth (1 Cor 15:33). "Evil company corrupts good morals." Be careful about the people you spend most of your time with.

**Through disbelief.** Folks wander from the truth because their faith doesn't continue to grow or because they fail to overcome difficult circumstances in life through faith. Our faith grows in the same way our initial faith was obtained, through hearing (reading and studying) the word of God (Rom 10:17). We should also pray for greater faith (Mk 9:23-25) 

# SOME THINGS WE ARE

John Isaac Edwards

I remember my mother sending me off to school with the words, “Remember who you are.” This brief study makes us aware of some things we are as Christians.

1) We Are Debtors. A debtor is one who owes another. The eighth chapter of Romans contrasts the spirit with the flesh. In verse twelve Paul penned this conclusion: “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.” We owe our lives to God and are duty bound to live after the Spirit.

2) We Are the Children of God. “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Rom. 8:16). What a great privilege to have God as our spiritual Father! This takes place by faith, being baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:26-27).

3) We Are More Than Conquerers. A conquerer is one who successfully overcomes. Paul mentioned such things as tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril and sword and said, “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Rom. 8:37). Through Christ, we gain a surpassing victory!

4) We Are the Lord’s. Romans 14:8 records, “For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s.” Our end and aim is not self, but the Lord. Having been purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28), we belong to the Lord, devoted to Him and depending on Him.

5) We Are Labourers. In first Corinthians three, Paul spoke of one planting and another watering and God giving the increase. He then said, “For we are labourers together with God...” (v. 9). We are companions in work, furthering the cause of Christ.

6) We Are God’s Workmanship. Paul wrote the Ephesians, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). God’s craftsmanship or handiwork is seen in what He made the Ephesians. They were dead, now alive; were lost, now saved;

were aliens and strangers, now fellow-citizens; were afar off, now nigh! This superb work was performed in Christ Jesus!

7) We Are Members. We are members of Christ’s body. In Paul’s essay on the church it is reported, “For we are members of his body...” (Eph. 5:30). Thus, we are cherished by the Lord. As well, “...we are members one of another” (Eph. 4:25). Thus, we need each other as much as the eye has need of the hand and the head the feet!

8) We Are Sanctified. Concerning the second will (that is, the will of Christ), Hebrews 10:10 declares, “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” To be sanctified is to be separated from profane things and dedicated to God. We are “...sanctified in Christ Jesus...” (1 Cor. 1:2). May we always remember who we are as the Lord’s people. –

## **DUTY LIST...**

### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell  
Reading: Proverbs 12:15-21
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....Tim Thompson
  - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
  - Serve.....John Nelson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

### **SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table.....Michael Pickford

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- 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!***