

## EXCUSES

Michael Pickford

We often try to make excuses for ourselves. We don't want to do something, or we made a mistake, or we're late for an appointment. Excuses, excuses, excuses!

Sadly, many try to make excuses to God. "I just didn't have time to read the Bible today, or pray, or share my faith." "After all, I have a busy life, I have a lot of responsibilities; a lot of people depend on me."

When God wanted to send Moses to deliver the people of Israel from Egyptian bondage, Moses tried to make excuses.

It's always sad when someone leans on an excuse to keep from obeying the Gospel. In Acts 24:22-25, we read of just such a man. When he heard Paul speak about the faith in Christ, he reasoned about righteousness, self control and the judgment to come. He even trembled! But then he offered an excuse to not obey. His excuse was that it was not a convenient time for him. Hell is filled with countless souls who made this same excuse.

Obedience to the Gospel is essential if one hopes to go to heaven (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Promptness is stressed (Acts 16:33). 

### 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](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> Monday of each month at 7 pm.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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### MOREOVER

John Isaac Edwards

The Holy Spirit often used the term "moreover" in introducing divine truth. Some good lessons follow the Bible word "moreover."

**Be Not As the Hypocrites.** In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave this instruction: "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward" (Matthew 6:16). A hypocrite is an actor or pretender. One may "appear" before men to be pious and holy, but "God knoweth your hearts" (Luke 16:15). May our faith and love be "unfeigned" (2 Corinthians 6:6; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Peter 1:22).

**If Thy Brother Shall Trespass Against Thee, Go and Tell Him.** The Lord directed, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone..." (Matthew 18:15). Did you notice how many people are involved here? Just two: "thee" and "thy brother". All too often this is read as if it said, "Go and tell his fault," as everyone knows about it but the brother himself. Most of the time things will be resolved on the personal level, without any one else needing to know about it, if we will just handle things the Lord's way. How about giving it a try?

**It Is Required in Stewards That a Man Be Found Faithful.** 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." A steward is a manager, superintendent or overseer, in whose hands a trust has been committed. Elders are stewards as they are Holy Ghost made "overseers" (Acts 20:28). Preachers are stewards, put in trust with the gospel of Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:4). All Christians are stewards, having been entrusted with sacred trusts. Are we showing ourselves faithful as the Lord's stewards.

**I Would Not That Ye Should Be Ignorant.** The tenth chapter of Corinthians opens with these words: "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant..." (verse 1). To not be ignorant is to know, and to know requires study. We need to be like those in Berea who "...searched the scriptures daily..." (Acts 17:11). Paul appealed to Timothy, "...give attendance to reading..." (1 Timothy 4:13). Ignorance is not bliss! -

# BELIEF AND BAPTISM

Michael Pickford

When God joins something together man goes astray when he tries to separate it. Two things the Lord joined together are belief and baptism. Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). Ever since the Lord spoke these words men have been trying to separate the two by teaching that salvation is by faith alone. Notice how these two things continue to stand together in the New Testament.

Those in Samaria – Acts 8:12. “But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.” This means they were saved (Mark 16:16).

Simon – Acts 8:13. “Then Simon himself also believed, and when he was baptized...” According to the Lord, Simon was saved (Mark 16:16).

The Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:36-38. Simon asked, “See, here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?” “Then Philip said, “If you believe...you may” Both Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water “and he baptized him.” According to the Lord, The Eunuch was then saved (Mark 16:16).

The Philippian Jailor – Acts 16:31-33. The Jailor asked what he needed to do to be saved. Paul told him to “believe on the Lord Jesus.” Paul then taught him the gospel. As a result of hearing, the Jailor believed and was immediately “baptized.” Of course he was baptized, because the Lord had said, “he who believe and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16).

The Corinthians – Acts 18:8. “...And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed, and were baptized.” They didn’t quibble with what the Lord had said. They simply took him at His word. When they believed, they were baptized. According to the Lord, this meant they were saved (Mark 16:16).

The churches of Galatia – Galatians 3:26-27. “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” It was Paul who had preached to these folks and taught them the gospel – “What we have preached to you” (Gal. 1:8). At Paul’s preaching, they believed and were baptized (Gal. 3:26-27). According to verse 26, this made them “sons of God.” They were “saved” by believing and being baptized, just as the Lord said they would be (Mark 16:16).

It is a shame that so many people believe they are saved without baptism when the Lord clearly joined those two together.

When we find instances in the Bible where it was mentioned that folks believed but it isn’t mentioned that they were baptized, it is understood that they were, in fact, baptized. Otherwise, the Bible contradicts itself in all of the aforementioned passages.

Paul preached to the Galatians and they became sons of God by believing and being baptized. Two facts must be considered here. First, Paul taught and wrote the commandments of the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:37). Second, Paul taught the same thing in every church (1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:1). Paul didn’t preach faith only salvation in some places and belief plus baptism salvation in other places. He taught the commandments of the Lord and the Lord said “he who believes and is baptized will be saved.” (Mark 16:16).

Don’t be deceived into thinking you can be saved by doing less than what the Lord required. If one teaches you that you can be saved by faith alone, don’t be deceived, regardless of their knowledge, education, popularity, or experience. Trust the Lord. His words still stand. “he who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). 🔍

## DUTY LIST...

### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd  
Reading: Proverbs 14:1-7
- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Opening Prayer.....Sam Miller
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....John Nelson
  - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
  - Serve.....Kenny Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Jeff Isbell

### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord’s Table.....Lynn Buttrey

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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

**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!**