

BE NOT DISMAYED

Michael Pickford

“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10).

It’s a strange thing to remember from my childhood, but it’s actually easier to ride a bicycle uphill in the dark than it is during daylight. Why? Because in the light I can see what’s ahead – a long challenging hill. At night, I only have to conquer what little my flashlight or headlight shows me—in my mind anyway. And I can do that!

Sometimes we get dismayed when we think of all the spiritual challenges we must face. Let’s think about taking it all one piece at a time. An old song is based on this concept, “One Step At A Time.”

Don’t think about converting your entire neighborhood, think about converting your neighbor. Don’t think about converting the entire factory, think about converting the one working next to you.

And most importantly, remember that God will strengthen you and help you. His righteous hand is there to hold you up. ☞

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 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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GOSPEL SECONDS

Michael Pickford

“Gospel” means “Good News.” The basis of this good news is that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). The Gospel of Christ is contained in the New Testament of your Bible. It is the complete story of God’s love, mercy, grace, longsuffering, and desire for sinful man and his salvation (1 Timothy 2:4). It is everything the Holy Spirit revealed to the apostles (John 16:13). “Second” is a consistent theme throughout the Gospel. Let’s consider some Gospel Seconds.

Second Law. The “law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2) is “grace and truth” that “came by Jesus Christ. The Law of Moses was the first law that has been taken out of the way by the “second” covenant (Hebrews 10:9). We appeal to the law of Christ, not to Moses law, for the things we practice in religion. The “first” law has become “Obsolete” and has been nailed to the cross (Hebrews 8:13; Col. 2:14).

Second Birth. Jesus told Nicodemus that if one were to enter the kingdom of heaven, he must be born again (John 3:3). This is the second birth. It is a birth of the water and the spirit (vs 5). Those at Pentecost saw the miracles of the Spirit, heard through Peter the message of the Spirit, and were commanded to be baptized to have their sins washed away (Acts 2:38). They were born of the water and the spirit. When we hear the gospel (as revealed by the Spirit. Jn 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:10-14), and obey it through baptism (Mark 16:16), we will be born again (1 Peter 1:22).

Second Law of Pardon. The second law of pardon applies to the one who has been born again, but then sins again. It consist of repenting of that sin, confessing it, and asking God’s forgiveness (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-9).

Second Coming of Christ. “To those who eagerly wait for Him (Christ) he will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation” (Hebrews 9:28). No one knows when the second coming of Christ will occur (Matthew 24:36). The Lord taught us to watch, that is, obey the gospel and remain faithful. If we’ll do these things, we will be ready for the Lord’s return.

Second Death. The first death is physical death when the spirit separates from the body (James 2:26). All will face this except for those living when the Lord returns (Heb. 9:27; 1 Cor 15:51-54). The second death will be the final separation of unrepentant sinners from Gd for eternity (Rev. 20:15). ☞

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DON'T LOOK AT IT!

David Eldridge

“Don’t look at it!” You have probably heard that warning the past several weeks in connection with not looking directly at the sun during the eclipse with the naked eye. If you do, you may well suffer solar maculopathy (solar blindness).

There is obviously danger found in looking at certain things. Spiritually, this is true as well. Jesus taught, “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell” (Matt. 5:29). When it comes to things that tempt us, Jesus’ message is, “Don’t look at it!” Doing so in this regard will be of greater consequence than losing your eyesight – you will lose your soul! Consider some examples and warnings about the need to guard your eyes.

Eve: In the garden, Eve knew “of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die’” (Gen. 3:3). Why then did Eve sin against God in eating the fruit? In part, because she looked at it. The record states, “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes...she took of its fruit and ate” (Gen. 3:6). We still live with consequences of this sin today. Eve stands as an example of our principle. When something is going to tempt you to sin, “Don’t look at it!”

Achan: Why did Achan take the gold, silver, and Babylonian garment from Jericho even though God had said not to (Josh 6:18-19)? He said, “When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it” (Josh 7:21). Because of this, Achan and all his family perished (Josh. 7:24-26). Achan’s example speaks to us today – when something is going to tempt you, “Don’t look at it!”

David: All of us are familiar with king David’s sins in regard to Bathsheba – adultery, deceit, lies, and murder. How did all of this begin? “Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king’s house. And from the roof he saw a woman

bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold” (2 Sam 11:2). As consequence of his sin, David lost the child he had with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:14). David teaches that, when it comes to things that would tempt you to sin, “Don’t look at it!”

In looking at these examples, surely we can see the danger of setting our eyes on the wrong things. We must always be on guard against the lust of the eyes. John warned, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 Jn. 2:15-17). Like the patriarch of old, we need to seek to make “a covenant with our eyes” not to look at things that would tempt us to sin (Job 31:31). Therefore, may our Lord find us having the determination of David expressed in Psalm 101:3: “I will set nothing wicked before my eyes...” If something tempts you, “Don’t look at it!”

What Are You Looking At? -

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell
Reading: Proverbs 15:21-26
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Tim Thompson
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....John Nelson
 - Serve.....Kenny Johnson
 - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Mike Pickford
- Lord’s Table.....Mike Pickford
- Invitation.....Tim Thompson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- 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!**