

CREATE in me a CLEAN heart,

O GOD,

And RENEW A  
steadfast spirit,  
Within Me.

- Psalm 51:10

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 night of each month Following Services.



## ***SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER***

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*"They...searched the scriptures daily..."* –Acts 17:11

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### **RULES**

Michael Pickford

Every aspect of our lives involves following rules. Rules are important and when we break them trouble follows.

Christians must run with endurance the race set before them (Heb 12:1). But we must run according to the rules. *"And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules"* (2 Tim 2:5). Jesus said, *"And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men"* (Matt 15:9). Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for their perversion of the Old Law. They also added oral traditions and taught them as if they were commandments from God. The apostle Paul was devoted to the perverted version of the law before he became a Christian, *"And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers"* (Gal 1:14). Paul ran hard but he wasn't competing according to the rules – God's rules! It doesn't matter if you think you are right, if you're wrong you're wrong! They had a rule book. God gave it to them through Moses. They should've followed it! They ran hard, but they broke the rules.

The Pharisees were guilty of not using the Law lawfully (1 Tim 1:8). And they were condemned for it (Lk 11:39-44). What about religious people today? We no longer live under the Old Law (Rom 7:1-6), but we are to run according to the doctrine of Christ, *"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God..."* (2 John 9). Many think they have the right to make up their own way of doing things in religion—things not found in the doctrine of Christ. They have so many traditions and doctrines of men that it's become necessary for them to publish them in books like the Catholic Catechism, the Baptist Manual, The Methodist Discipline, the Book of Mormon, etc., etc., etc. When will they realize that they are doing to the doctrine of Christ exactly what the Jews did to the Law of Moses? Jesus is saying to them the same things He said to those Pharisees? *"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish"* (Luke 13:3).

Let's get back to the Bible alone. It's all we need for doctrine, discipline, teaching, and good works (2 Tim 3:16-17). Who else but Christ has the words of eternal life (John 6:68)? We must compete according to the rules—Christ's rules—if we don't want to lose that wonderful crown of life. Many run hard in religion, but they'll lose eternal life because they broke God's rules (Matt 7:21-23). 🔍

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# WHO REALLY KNOWS YOU?

David Eldridge

There are several people you know and several who know you. However, who REALLY knows you? Who knows what you think, what you do, and the words that you say?

**Family:** As far as others are concerned, your family probably comes the closest to REALLY knowing you. They spend more time around you than anyone else. They hear the words you say and see the things you do when you let your guard down. They may see and know much, but there may still be things they do not know. They do not always know what you are thinking, and may not know some of things you do and say.

**Yourself:** Paul said to the Corinthians, “Examine yourselves... do you not know yourselves...?” (2 Cor. 13:5). We should REALLY know ourselves. However, some do not. The reason? They fail in honest self-examination. They are self-deluded; deceiving themselves as they overlook their faults and exaggerate their strengths. Let it not be true of us! May we ever look at our life honestly. Only then will you REALLY know yourself. This is important spiritually. When we examine ourselves, it allows us to see if Jesus Christ is in us (ibid). This examination is done by using the mirror of God’s word. James wrote, “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (Jas. 1:21-25). The mirror of divine revelation allows us to see ourselves as we really are – to see ourselves as God sees us. Paul asked Christians, “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?” (1 Cor. 2:11). You should REALLY know yourself. Do you?

**God:** Some think God does not REALLY know them. Like those in Isaiah’s day, they are wrong. “Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord, and their works are in the dark; they say, ‘Who sees us?’ and, ‘Who knows us?’ Surely you have things turned

around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, ‘He did not make me’? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, ‘He has no understanding’?” (Isa. 29:15-16). He made us, He sees us, and He REALLY knows us. In fact, God knows us better than we know ourselves. David said it this way, “O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether...such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it” (Ps 139:1-6). The Hebrew writer said that God “is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Heb. 4:12-13). The sobering thought is that God REALLY knows me and one Day I am going to have to give account for all those things He REALLY knows – my deeds, words, and even my thoughts. Surely, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:31). Are you living with regard for the fact that God REALLY knows you? -

## DUTY LIST...

### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford  
Reading: Proverbs 19:15-21
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Tim Thompson
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....Kenny Johnson
  - Serve.....Eli Todd
  - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Jeff Isbell

### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Lord’s Table.....Tim Thompson

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Eli 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!***