

The *Grace* of our
LORD *Jesus Christ*
be with *You.*

- 1 Corinthians 16:23

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 night of each month Following Services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

Volume 14, Number 29

July 22, 2018

DON'T LOOK BACK

Michael Pickford

MOST PRESIDENTS OF THE United States become famous for their quotes. Abraham Lincoln was no exception. We discussed three of his quotes in previous articles. Now I'd like to consider another Lincoln quote which states, "I am a slow walker, but I never look back."

We all know the importance of perseverance in every endeavor of life. We'd never learn anything without it—not well anyway. Perseverance is something I'm trying to teach my son. I sat down and showed him how to build a house of cards recently. I carefully demonstrated the correct way to begin so the cards would support each other. He wanted to quit after his first couple of attempts failed. I told him he had to keep trying because that's how we learn to do things. I went back to my office to work. A few minutes later he knocked on my door excited to show me the small house he'd built with the cards. I praised his efforts. An hour later he had several houses to show me. That's perseverance!

Abraham Lincoln was no stranger to perseverance. He ran for the state legislator and lost. He ran for Congress and lost. He ran twice for the Senate and met defeat both times. He learned that what matters most is not how many times you fail, but that you never stop trying.

The Bible has a lot to say about perseverance, endurance, and never looking back when it comes to serving Jesus. Jesus Himself said, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). On another occasion, He told His listeners, "Remember Lot's wife." Peter taught that if we want to avoid stumbling, we must add perseverance to our faith (2 Peter 1:5-11). And finally, the Lord said, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

Satan has many devious tools in his bag that he uses against us to tempt us to look back—to look away from our faith in Jesus. The lure of sin is a strong one. But remember the punishment it brings. He also tries to discourage us with persecutions, sicknesses, bereavements, and such like. Remember that all must face these, even those outside of Christ. But we face them with a hope of eternity in heaven. He also tries to deceive us away from our faith with false doctrine. Read your Bible every day, and assemble with the saints to remain grounded in the truth (2 Peter 3:17-18). Don't look back!

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www.defendthegospel.com

THE EXAMPLE OF JOSEPH

David Eldridge

More chapters of the Old Testament are devoted to the life of Joseph than to any of the other Patriarchs (Gen. 37-50). We find in Joseph a man holy in character and a good example for us.

Joseph Was An Obedient Child: When asked by his father to go to his brothers, Joseph replied, “Here I am” (Gen. 37:13). This is the attitude of obedience that God desires children to have towards their parents. Paul wrote, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right” (Eph. 6:1).

Joseph Trusted In The Lord: Joseph’s brothers, being moved by jealousy, sold him to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver when he was only 17 years old (Gen. 32). Thus began his trials. He was in turn sold to Potiphar in Egypt, and later thrown in jail. Through it all, Joseph trusted in the Lord. Many, when faced with harsh trials, simply give up. We would do well to be like Joseph, remembering that, “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him” (Jas. 1:12).

Joseph Maintained His Purity: As a slave in Potiphar’s house, “Joseph was handsome in form and appearance” (Gen. 39:6). In fact, he was in charge of all that Potiphar possessed. Potiphar’s wife asked Joseph “day by day” to lie with her. Imagine being a young man away from your family and all that you knew and being tempted over and over again by a woman to sleep with her. But Joseph “refused” and “did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her” (Gen. 39:8,10). He remained pure. We should be like Joseph as we “flee...youthful lusts” that we might be “an example...of purity” (2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Tim. 4:12).

Joseph Realized That Sin Was Against God: In stating why he would not lie with Potiphar’s wife, Joseph said, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Gen. 39:9). Every sin we commit is a “trespass against the Lord” (Lev. 6:2). David wrote to God, after the prophet revealed his sin with Bathsheba, “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight...” (Ps. 51:4). There must be a realization within us that every sin we commit is against the God of heaven and earth!

Joseph Knew That Vengeance Was Not His To Take: Many, if in a position to exact revenge on those who had done them wrong, would do

it in a heartbeat. That was the very fear of Joseph’s brothers in Genesis 20:15-18. Yet, “Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?...Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spoke kindly unto them” (Gen. 50:19-21). Remember that, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord” (Heb. 10:30).

Joseph Saw The Providence Of God: Joseph had some hard trials during his lifetime. Nevertheless, as he spoke to his brothers, he said, “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive” (Gen 50:20). Because of the position that he finally held as the ruler under Pharaoh, Joseph was able to save people from the famine. He could see the hand of God in all the events of his life. In addition, the “nation promise” given to Abraham was fulfilled by the children of Israel’s time in Egypt (cf. Ac. 7:17). God provides for us, and uses us, according to his divine providence. We may never know the plan of God until we see it unfolded, but God is always working, providing for the good of His people (Rom. 8:28).-

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson
Reading: Proverbs 21:17-24
- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....Tim Thompson
 - Serve.....Rusty Barnes
 - Serve.....Kenny Todd
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- 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!***