

## Scheduled Guest Speakers for 2018

September 30<sup>th</sup>, PM  
Jason Schrader

Gospel Meeting, October 19-21  
Bruce Higdon

December 30<sup>th</sup>, PM  
Eli Todd

### 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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### **PRESSING TOWARDS HEAVEN**

David Eldridge

"Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12-14).

What an amazing statement! These grand words of the apostle Paul express desire, single-mindedness, devotion, determination, and perseverance.

- Would you be able to truthfully say that Paul's words also describe your life?
- Is your greatest desire that of Heaven?
- Is your heart singly focused on that goal above all others?
- Are you wholeheartedly devoted to the Lord because of the grace He has shown towards you?
- Are you unwaveringly determined to please Him in all that you do?
- Do you show perseverance, pressing on after either failure or success?

If honestly examining ourselves, I am sure each of us realizes that we need to improve. That's okay – Paul stated that he did as well. Since we will always have room to grow, the important thing is to keep growing (2 Pet. 3:18)! Are you? –

# BAPTISM AND ADULTEROUS MARRIAGES

David Eldridge

There are some who would teach that baptism sanctifies an adulterous marriage, therefore making the marriage holy and right. Their thought is that since baptism washes away sins, that the one who is baptized has the sin of their previous unlawful divorce(s) and remarriage(s) washed away. Then they would assert that the marriage they are currently in is one which is sanctified by God. Basically the teaching is that one could marry, divorce, and remarry unscripturally (one or ten times), be baptized, and then be holy in the eyes of God with either their current spouse, or if they are currently unmarried, be free to marry again. However, the scriptures indicate that this is not the case. In considering if baptism sanctifies adulterous marriages, consider the following.

**Baptism Is To Be Predicated By Repentance:** Divorce for reasons other than adultery, and remarriage of any but the innocent party (in the case of adultery) after divorce is sin both for the alien sinner and the saint (cf. Matt. 19:3-9). Peter said one must “repent and be baptized...for the remission of sin” (Ac. 2:38). The sin of being in an adulterous marriage is to be repented of before one is baptized if they are to be forgiven of that sin. Repentance is a change in mind that demonstrates itself in a change of life. Therefore, the one who is to be baptized must leave an adulterous marriage if they are to truly repent and be forgiven. The fact that one must repent before they are baptized teaches us that baptism does not sanctify adulterous marriages.

**Baptism Changes Man’s Relationship To God:** Baptism does, and does not do, certain things. When one is baptized they become a child of God (Gal. 3:26-27), with the hope of an eternal inheritance in Heaven (Titus 3:7). Thus, baptism changes man’s relationship to God. However, baptism does not change man’s relationship to his fellow man. Once baptized, one is still the child of their parents, still the parent to their child, and still bound to the spouse God bound them to. Though baptism washes away the sin, baptism does not wash away God’s bond between a husband and his wife. Therefore, if one is bound to a previous husband or wife, but is married to another, they are just as much an adulterer or adulteress as they were before they

were baptized. Baptism does not sanctify adulterous marriages because it does not change the binding of God between a husband and wife.

**Sin Before Baptism Is Still Sin After Baptism:** If one was a thief before they were baptized, will baptism sanctify their thievery so they can continue stealing? If one practices homosexuality before baptism, will being baptized sanctify their homosexuality so they can continue practicing homosexuality? Certainly not! Then, if one is in an adulterous marriage prior to being baptized, will their baptism allow them to continue in adultery? Not any more than baptism would allow the thief to keep stealing and the homosexual to continue to commit homosexuality. Remember, the one who is baptized “should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4), having “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Gal. 5:24). Sin before baptism is still sin after baptism – that includes the sin involved in an adulterous marriage. May God ever find us standing on His word alone, never compromising the truth! –

## **DUTY LIST...**

### **SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Glenn Isbell  
Reading: Proverbs 22:9-15
- Song Leader.....Tim Thompson
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord’s Table:
  - Lead.....Michael Pickford
  - Serve.....Kenny Todd
  - Serve.....Rusty Barnes
- Closing Prayer.....Sam Miller

### **SUNDAY EVENING**

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

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- 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!***