HE who Walks with

Integrity walks securely.

- Proverbs 10:9

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- *SINGING*: Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- *PREACHING/TEACHING:* Acts2:42; 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



- **>** <u>www.defendthegospel.com</u>
- ➤ 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

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854 "They...searched the scriptures daily..."—Acts 17:11

Volume 14, Number 36

September 16, 2018

STRENGTH Michael Pickford

The Bible never promised it was easy to make it to heaven. In fact, Jesus taught that it would be "difficult," and that few would make it (Matthew 7:13-14). But I'm certain all of us would like to get there. It'll take great spiritual strength. I've offered some passages below that will help us find the strength we need to be victors in our daily battles.

- 1. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." –Ephesians 6:10
- 2. "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong." -1 Corinthians 16:13
- 3. "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man." –Ephesians 3:16
- 4. "Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy." Colossians 1:11
- 5. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13
- 6. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." –John 15:5 >

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

David Eldridge

This week, we begin a series of bulletin articles on the seven churches of Asia which the Lord spoke to in Revelation 2-3. Before we begin a discussion of each of the seven churches, let us take note of some reasons why we should study these letters to the seven churches.

These Letters Contain Teachings We Need To Hear: At the conclusion of each of the letters to the churches at Asia, the Lord speaks these words: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). Through the use of this phrase, the Lord is expressing the idea that these words, though written to these seven specific congregations, are profitable to all Christians in every time. The lessons they teach are things we need to hear! Since we have an ear to hear, let us give heed to the things written to these seven churches of Asia.

The Problems Faced By The Seven Churches Are Problems Facing The Church Today: Upon reading chapters two and three of the book of Revelation, it is easy to see that the things these churches faced in the 1st century are some of the same that we face in the 21st century. The letters to the seven churches talk about issues such as unfaithfulness, persecution, lackadaisical service to God, false doctrine, and the list goes on. Our brethren then were facing many of the same problems that we are today. It is profitable to study these letters, for through them we find both admonishment and encouragement for the difficulties we face.

These Letters Provide Us With Encouragement: The things written to the seven churches of Asia provide us with encouragement to be more faithful to the Lord. These words

penned nearly 2,000 years ago are still relevant and timely for us today. When we see what our brethren then had to endure, it should give us more patience. When we see the promises the Lord gives, it should make us more faithful. When we note the condemnation of the wicked, it should cause us to abstain from evil. The letters to the seven churches are important for us today as they encourage us to live more godly lives.

These Letters Remind Us That The Lord Knows This

Church: The Lord said He "walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands" which "are the seven churches" (Rev. 1:20-2:1). Reading through these letters, you will note that the Lord saw everything each church did and did not do. The Lord is intimately familiar with all our works as a church here. There is not a moment that we escape His watchful eye and attention.—

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- > Announcements....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell Reading: Proverbs 23:15-21
- ➤ Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- > Opening Prayer......Jason Hubbard
- ➤ Lord's Table:

Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....John Nelson Serve.....Lynn Buttrey

Closing Prayer......Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- ➤ Song Leader.....Jeff Isbell
- ➤ Lord's Table.....Michael Pickford

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- ➤ Song Leader.....Kenny 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
- <u>Be Baptized</u>: 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!