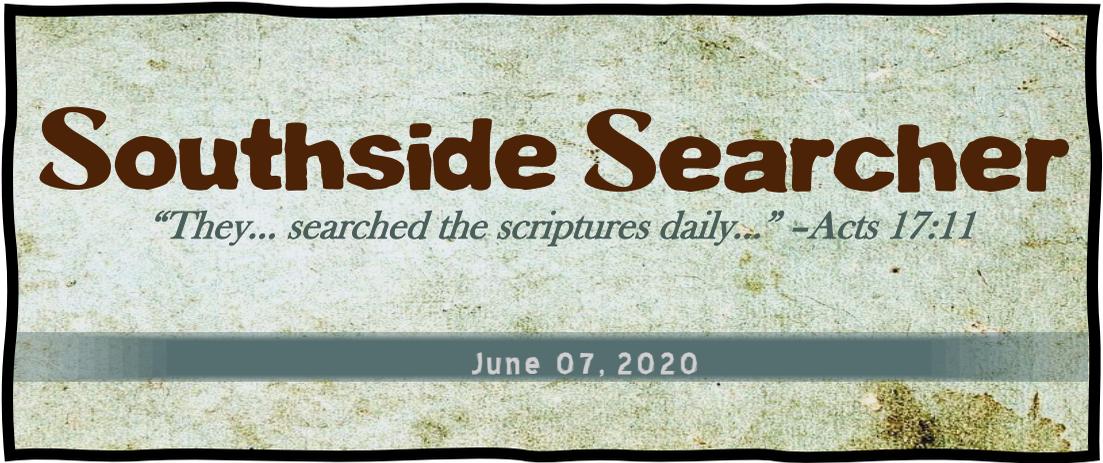


<p>DUTY LIST...</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford ➤ Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell Reading: Hebrews 6:1-8 ➤ Song Leader.....Kenny Todd ➤ Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson ➤ Lord's Table: Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....Eli Todd Serve..... ➤ Closing Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey <p>SUNDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scripture Reading... Reading: ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Lord's Supper..... <p>WEDNESDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Song Leader..... ➤ Invitation..... 	<p style="text-align: center;">God's Plan of Salvation</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Hear the Gospel</u>: Romans 10:17 ➤ <u>Believe</u>: Mark 16:16; John 8:24 ➤ <u>Repent of Sin</u>: Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30 ➤ <u>Confess Faith</u>: Romans 10:9, 10 ➤ <u>Be Baptized</u>: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21 ➤ <u>Remain Faithful</u>: Rev. 2:10 <p style="text-align: center;">Obey Today!</p>
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Was Jesus' Body Broken?

IT IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT FOR us to test all things. We must be certain we are doing Bible things in Bible ways and calling Bible things by Bible names. Sometimes we hear someone speak of “The broken body of Christ” either in prayer or in comments made at the Lord’s table. Is this scripturally accurate? Consider a few points...

In the NKJV, 1 Corinthians 11:24 states, “*and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me.’*” Note the statement “My body which is broken for you.” The KJV and several other translations speak of the broken body in this verse; however, many versions omit it. There are different theories in textual criticism when it comes to the approximately five thousand manuscripts we have of the New Testament. Some believe if a word or phrase is left out of some of the oldest manuscripts, then said word or phrase should not be in the Bible. Others feel that if the word or phrase appears in most manuscripts, although omitted in some of the oldest, then said word or phrase should be in the Bible. For many scholars, the word “broken” should be in the verse above, hence it is found in the NKJV, KJV, etc. The ESV footnotes it. It is my judgment that the word belongs there.

But even if the word broken should not be in the verse, there are other things to consider. For example, Matthew 26:26 says, “*And as they were eating, Jesus*

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took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.' Notice that the bread was broken when He said it was His body. In this verse, broken bread represented His body.

The concern some have with speaking of Jesus' body as "broken" comes from John 19:36, "*Not one of His bones shall be broken.*" Contextually, John applied this prophecy to the bones in Jesus' legs. In any case, the prophecy was about Jesus' bones, not the rest of His body.

This leads us to the question: Can other parts of the body be spoken of as being broken?

I've heard my wife say on occasion "I broke a nail." Had she broken a bone? No.

A few years back, I bit down on a piece of popcorn and broke a tooth. Had I broken any bones? No.

I've heard doctors and others speak of broken blood vessels. Any broken bones involved? No.

Sometimes, when someone scratches themselves, someone will say "Did you break the skin?" No bones broken here either.

This leads us to the question...

Was Jesus' body broken? If I'm going to answer this question while satisfying my sense of honesty, I must say, "yes, Jesus' body was definitely broken." No bones were broken, but we know for a fact that His skin was broken. So, His body (skin) was broken open and His blood flowed forth.

Jesus was offered "*As of a lamb without blemish and without spot*" (1 Peter 1:19) in the sense that He was sinless, for we know His body was blemished by thorns, whips, and nails. He suffered for your sins and for mine.

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Spokesmen For Christ

LARGE COMPANIES OFTEN HIRE CELEBRITIES to be their spokesmen. These celebrities are paid handsomely to speak out for the product. Shouldn't we, as Christians, be spokesmen for Christ? After all, the incentives are not earthly and passing, but spiritual and eternal!

Paul was a great spokesman for the Lord. He wrote, "*But I speak concerning Christ and the church*" (Ephesians 5:32). In this context Paul was comparing the Christ/church relationship with the husband/wife relationship; but Paul was always ready to speak about Christ and His church. Do you find this odd from a man who was once adamant about destroying the church? (Galatians 1:13). Regardless of the circumstances, Paul was always ready to speak the wonderful words of Christ. All through the middle to latter part of the book of Acts we find Paul speaking concerning Christ and the church. Why? Because "*I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains*" (Acts 26:29). He wanted people to be saved and he knew that this necessitated the preaching of the gospel of Christ (Mark 16:15; Romans 10:14, 17).

Should we not be quick to follow Paul's example? (1 Corinthians 11:1). We must speak concerning Christ and His church. Those Christians in Jerusalem in the first century were quick to speak about Christ when they were driven out of Jerusalem due to a great wave of persecution against the saints (Acts 8:1-4). Sadly, not only are some saints not trying to teach and convert their friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers, but some would not be able to cite a single Bible passage in answer to a simple Bible question (1 Peter 3:15). Not only should we, through diligent study, be able to answer the world's Bible questions when asked, but we should take the initiative to speak out first in trying to convert lost sinners to the Lord. If you need incentive to do so, then just picture them burning in the eternal flames of fire; this should break your heart enough to try and teach them. In fact, this was a strong incentive for Paul: "*Knowing, therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...*" (2 Corinthians 5:11). Let's be spokesmen for Christ!

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