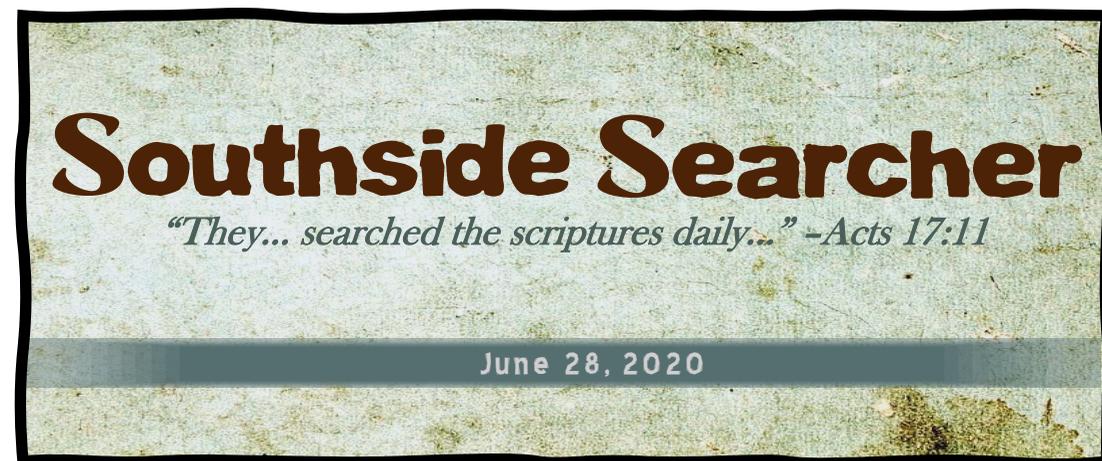


<p>DUTY LIST...</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford ➤ Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson Reading: Proverbs 4:20-27 ➤ Song Leader.....Kenny Todd ➤ Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell ➤ Lord's Table: Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....Eli Todd Serve..... ➤ Closing Prayer.....Eli Todd <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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To Who Shall We Go?

ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASSION our Lord's teaching offended His audience causing many of them to turn away and follow Him no more. Jesus was not one to mince words. He spoke the truth which was exactly what folks needed to hear. He spoke the truth knowing it would offend them, hurt their feelings, or even cause them to stop following Him. His style of preaching and teaching didn't turn out to be particularly popular, and it ultimately got Him nailed to a cross.

On one such occasion Jesus ask His disciples, "*Do you also want to go away?*" (John 6:67). Peter boldly and classically responded, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*" (John 6:68). When Peter asked, "To whom shall we go?" he was insinuating the powerful truth that there is no one else to go to. One cannot make it to heaven through anyone other than Jesus Christ. And one cannot attain eternal life through the teachings of any other (John 14:6).

But, sadly, many try to make it to heaven through avenues other than Christ and His unadulterated teachings. Peter said, "To whom shall we go?" Let's consider the answers that some give to this question.

1) **Parents/Family.** Many deny some of the teaching of Jesus because they contradict the beliefs of their family, especially their parents. They refuse to accept that baptism is essential for salvation because their parents don't/didn't

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accept such. But Jesus plainly stated, “*he who believes and is baptized will be saved*” (Mark 16:16). Jesus instructed Ananias to tell Saul, “*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord*” (Acts 22:16). Jesus said, “*He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me*” (Matthew 10:37). Don’t make yourself unworthy of Jesus.

2) **Preacher.** Preacher’s should be respected when they are preaching and teaching the truth (1 Corinthians 16:11; 1 Timothy 4:12). But when they preach and teach error while refusing to repent of their error they should be rejected (Romans 16:17-18). Some show more devotion to their preacher than to Jesus by trusting what their preacher says more than what they can plainly read in the Bible.

3) **Past.** Many people are too fearful of change. They have spent their entire life following the traditional beliefs and practices of their past—beliefs and practices that contradict the Gospel in many ways. The first century Jews had the same problem. In fact, it led them to deny Jesus when He appeared. Jesus condemned them for it (Matthew 15:1-8). Be willing to change lifelong beliefs and practices when they are exposed as error by the light of the Gospel.

4) **Majority.** Many refuse to accept the truths of the Gospel because the masses accept religious error. Consider the teaching that salvation is attained by faith alone as an example. The gospel makes it clear that one must obey Christ to receive eternal life (Hebrews 5:8-9). If obedience is necessary, then salvation cannot come through faith alone. James 2:24 clearly refutes the concept of salvation by faith only. But people find comfort in the masses. This has always been true. It has never been easy to take a stand against the majority. Jesus taught that the majority would follow the wrong road and end up in being destroyed. He emphasized that it would be “few” who found life (Matthew 7:13-14). The truth is not determined by how many or how few believe it. The truth is determined by what God has spoken in His word. God told His people long ago, “You shall not follow a crowd to do evil” (Exodus 23:2).

Go to Jesus alone. There is no substitute if you desire eternal life.

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Convicted

JESUS WAS MERELY HOURS AWAY from being betrayed and arrested when He promised His closest disciples that He would send them the Comforter after His departure. The Holy Spirit was to do many things, one of which was to convict the world of sin. “*Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when he has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment*” (John 16:7-8).

Today, when we speak of convicts or “cons,” we are speaking of those who have been convicted of a crime. Not merely accused and arrested but convicted. They committed a crime, proof was produced, and they were convicted. From the Greek our word for “convict” is *elegcho*. It means to confute, admonish: --convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove. It’s the same word Jesus used in Matthew 18:15 when he told Peter to rebuke someone who had sinned against him. It’s the same word used in Ephesians 5:13 when Paul told Christians, “*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose (rebuke, reprove, convict) them.*” And significantly, it’s the same word Paul used in 2 Timothy 4:2 when Paul urged that Timothy should, “*Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince (convict), rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*”

Elegcho is a tough word. To convict does not mean to coddle. It means to expose men’s own sins to them. To convince them that their deeds are wrong, hurtful, and sinful. Men should preach the truth for the purpose of stimulating sinners’ conscience against them. We want that little voice inside the sinner’s head to say, “You are wrong, you’re committing crimes against man and God, and you need to stop doing that.” We live in an age of passing the blame and passing the buck. We don’t want to call sin sin for fear of giving offense. We prefer to call sin a phobia, a disease, a psychological problem, an alter ego, or an obsession. We blame the parents, the upbringing, or some tragic event from youth—anything or anyone but the one who committed the sin. We try to side-step the concept of personal responsibility and accountability. What this world needs is good, old fashioned preaching that is honest with the Gospel and frank about sin. We need to be convicted!

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