

DUTY LIST...**SUNDAY MORNING**

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
 - Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell
Reading: John 2:13-22
 - Song Leader.....Eli Todd
 - Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
 - Lord's Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Eli Todd
Serve.....
 - Closing Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey
- SUNDAY EVENING**
- Scripture Reading...
Reading:
 - Song Leader.....
 - Lord's Supper.....
- WEDNESDAY EVENING**
- Song Leader.....
 - Invitation.....

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; Acts 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!

www.defendthegospel.com

We would love to have you visit with us. Our meeting times are:

SUNDAYS: 9 & 10 AM & 6 PM / WEDNESDAYS: 7 PM

We have capable Bible teachers who would be delighted to study with you at your request and convenience.

Our evangelist, Michael Pickford is the editor of this publication.

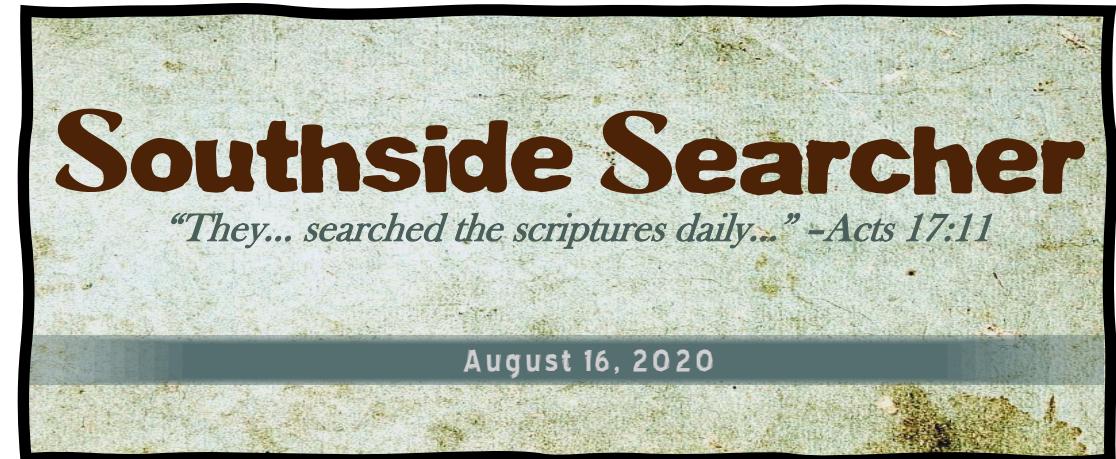
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Jesus Spat

Jesus spat and touched the tongue of a deaf-mute to heal him. Jesus spat in the eyes of a blind man to heal him (Mark 7:33; 8:23). Does this seem strange? After all, He once healed a couple of blind men without spitting (Matthew 9:27-31).

So, why did Jesus spit? We are not told. There are speculations. For example, one commentator suggests that perhaps it was to connect the power of healing directly to Jesus rather than to some other source. But that's speculation.

Why would the Holy Spirit tell us that Jesus spat to heal these men? Why not simply say that He healed them? We don't know. Was there something miraculous in His spit? Did His saliva contain some sort of magic chemical that could heal? Emphatically, no! Jesus healed other blind men without any mention of spitting; so, the power was not in the saliva. In fact, a touch from Jesus was not even necessary for Him to heal the sick (Matthew 8:8-13).

Whatever we may or may not learn from the spitting, I would like to make an observation about the thinking of some people today. The Bible is clear that baptism is necessary for the washing away of sins (salvation - Acts 22:16; Mark 16:16). This truth is often challenged with statements like, "You think there's something special in the water?" No, I don't. Listen, we cannot deny a truth from God because we do not understand logically the reason for that truth. Jesus spat to heal. We don't know why, but it's true. Jesus commanded baptism for salvation. We may or may not know why, but the command still stands. Remember, God's ways are infinitely higher than man's ways, and we would do well to trust His word over our understanding, or lack thereof (Isaiah 55:8-9; Proverbs 5:6).

-Michael Pickford
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“I Am Not One To Argue Scripture”

When we challenge those who teach things that are Biblically incorrect and call for discussion of such, we are met with the response, “I am not one to argue Scripture.” Those who shun religious disputes ought to read the following passages:

ACTS 17:16-17: *“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.”*

ACTS 18:1, 4: *“After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth... And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.”*

ACTS 18:19: *“And he came to Ephesus...and reasoned with the Jews.”*

ACTS 19:8-9: *“And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years...”*

The word translated “*disputed*” and “*reasoned*” is defined as, “to think different things with other persons, to converse, argue, dispute” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words, pp. 324-325).

About everywhere Paul went, he was arguing (disputing, reasoning) with someone from the Scriptures. Now read Paul’s words in Philippians 4:9: *“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do...”*

-John Edwards

Via <http://www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com>

The Most Comprehensive Statement In The Bible

One of the most comprehensive statements in the Bible was made when Moses said, *“And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?”* (Dt. 10:12-13). If we are concerned about God, then we will be concerned about what He requires and meeting His requirements. What doth the Lord thy God require of thee?

1) TO FEAR THE LORD. Man is duty bound to fear the Lord. Solomon recorded, *“Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man”* (Eccl. 12:13). Fear of God is reverence for God that moves us to do the will of God.

2) TO WALK IN ALL HIS WAYS. God’s ways are on a far higher plane than our ways (Is. 55:8-9). It is not that we are to walk in some of His ways, but the Lord requires us to walk in ALL His ways. One would do well to read the book of Ephesians to learn how to walk today (Eph. 2:10; 4:1, 17; 5:2, 8, 15).

3) TO LOVE HIM. *“This is the first and great commandment”* (Mt. 22:37-38). Love for God involves keeping the commandments of God. *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous”* (1 Jn. 5:3). *“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him”* (1 Jn. 2:4). Do you know Him?

4) TO SERVE THE LORD THY GOD. Joshua’s appeal was to serve the Lord *“in sincerity and in truth”* (Josh. 24:14). Too many are trying to serve God and mammon, and such cannot be done (Mt. 6:24)!

5) TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD. God’s commandments for us today are contained in the gospel of Christ. Within the gospel is *“the righteousness of God revealed”* (Rom. 1:16-17), and the Psalmist said of God, *“All thy commandments are righteousness”* (Ps. 119:172). So, to be righteous, one must obey the gospel commands! Will you do what the Lord thy God requires?

-John Edwards

Via <http://www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com>