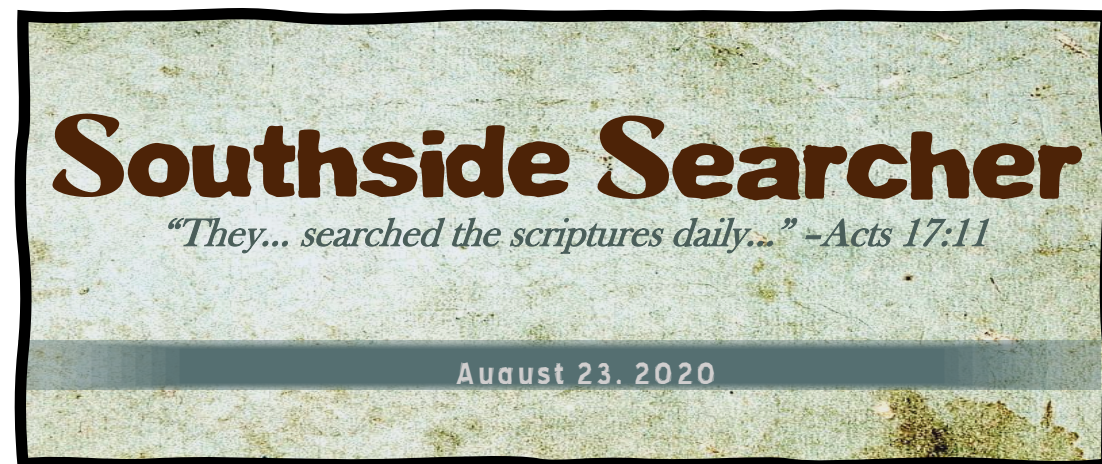


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| <p>DUTY LIST...</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford ➤ Scripture Reading...Jeff Isbell Reading: Psalm 18:1-6 ➤ Song Leader.....Kenny Todd ➤ Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson ➤ Lord's Table: 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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Reverence For God's Name

LEVITICUS 20:10FF TELLS ABOUT the son of an Israelite woman. His father was an Egyptian. He blasphemed God's name and was placed in custody until the Lord could advise Moses on how to deal with the situation. God told Moses to take the blasphemer outside the camp to be stoned to death by all who heard the blasphemy. *"Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. And whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death"* (Leviticus 24:15-16).

Wow! God takes it seriously when someone blasphemes His name. In fact, He included it in the ten commandments, *"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain"* (Exodus 20:7). This was during Old Testament times and was associated with the old covenant between God and the children of Israel – a covenant which is now obsolete (Hebrews 8:13). But the New Testament is not silent about misusing God's Holy name. Jesus taught that we should hallow God's name (Matthew 6:9). The opposite of that would be to misuse God's name.

Be honest, when you think of someone taking God's name in vain, the first thing you think of is that awful two-word phrase. Right? Some seem to think that using that phrase is the only way we can blaspheme God's holy name. Not so. To blaspheme is to mock, deride, make light of, or treat as casual or common. In short, we can blaspheme God's name in many ways. Do you tremble when you hear someone use that two-word phrase? Me too! How about when someone says "OMG," or uses God's name lightly and casually in other ways? That is something we should give serious thought to, don't you think?

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

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The Sinner's Prayer

MANY PREACHERS ON THE TV, Internet, or Radio ask their listeners to “Get saved” by repeating something commonly known as “The Sinner’s Prayer.”

Here’s an example of a Sinner’s Prayer,

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do your will. In your name, amen.”

The Sinner’s prayer is found nowhere in the Bible, nor is the concept. It was invented by man, not God. The Bible teaches that man must...

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17; Romans 1:16).
2. Believe in Jesus as the Christ (John 8:24; Mark 16:16).
3. Repent of his sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30).
4. Confess his faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:36-37).
5. Be baptized into Christ for the washing away of his sins to receive salvation (Galatians 3:26-27; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16).
6. Remain faithful to the Lord until death (Revelation 2:10).

Nowhere in the Bible is anyone who is on the outside of Christ exhorted to pray in order to get saved.

1. When those in Acts chapter 2 asked how to get God’s forgiveness, they were told to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). No mention of prayer.
2. When the Eunuch heard Christ preached, he wanted to be baptized, and was told he must confess first (Acts 8:35-38). No mention of prayer.
3. Those at Galatia became sons of God through faith and baptism (Galatians 3:27-28), no mention of prayer! The same with those at Rome (Romans 6:1-6).
4. There is not a single example of conversion in the New Testament where an alien sinner prayed as part of the process to get saved. Can you find one?

Friends, Only the Lord’s way saves the soul (2 John 9; Proverbs 14:12). And the Lord plainly said, “*He who believes and is baptized shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16). And, “*Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life*” (Revelation 2:10).

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Do You Have An Open Bible?

DO YOU HAVE A BIBLE THAT is open to different interpretations? Do you think God ever spoke to anyone with different interpretations in mind? Ezra the priest read the law to the people and they were able to understand it alike. Nehemiah 8:12 says, “And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.” If they could understand the law of God given by Moses alike, why would the law of God given by Christ for us today be any different?

Are the rules of sports open to different interpretations? Would we “agree to disagree” over what constitutes an “out” in baseball? Is a doctor’s prescription open to different interpretations? If you were prescribed a medication for your infection, would that be open to different interpretations? Why do we insist on different interpretations with the word of God? Paul said, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10).

If the word of God is open to different interpretations, then the Bible is relative and subjective. How could the Scriptures be wrested or twisted to destruction (2 Pet. 3:16), if they are not absolute in their meaning?

Why the admonition to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15), if truth is subjective?

Is the Bible open to conflicting, contradicting interpretations? Romans 3:4 answers well: “God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar.”

-John Edwards

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