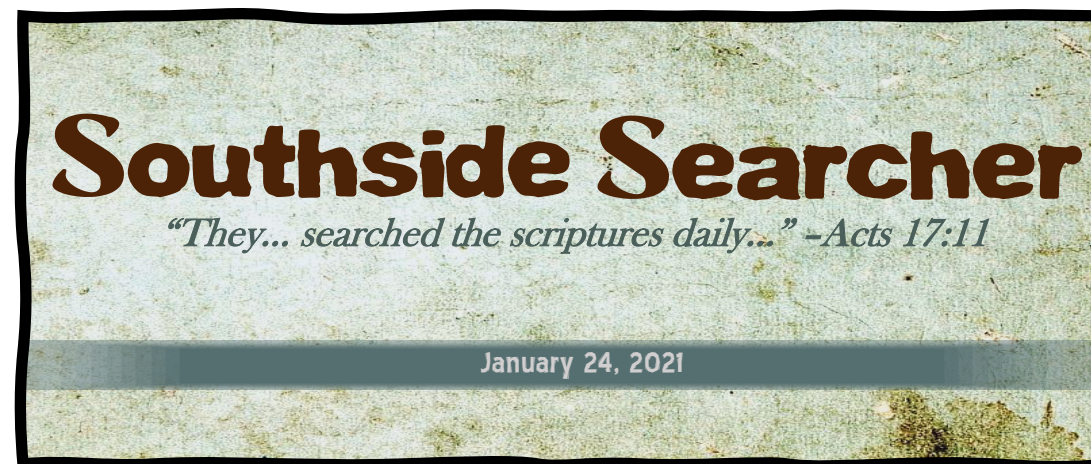


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| <p>DUTY LIST...</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford ➤ Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd Reading: TBA ➤ Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey ➤ Opening Prayer.....Robert Johnson ➤ Lord's Table: Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....Eli Todd Serve..... ➤ Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson <p>SUNDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Song Leader.....Jeff Isbell ➤ Opening Prayer...Kenny Todd ➤ Invitation.....Eli Todd ➤ Lord's Supper.....Mike P. / Eli T. ➤ Closing Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey | <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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I Pledge Allegiance

IS IT IDOLATRY to pledge allegiance to the flag which represents our allegiance to our country? Some think so. To be allegiant is to “be loyal to” or “committed to.” In that light, consider...

A spouse is to be allegiant to his spouse. It is worded differently, but every wedding I have attended or performed the two getting married pledged allegiance to each other. And rightly so! Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:22-25, 33; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

An employee is to be allegiant to his employer. Ephesians 6:5-9; Titus 2:9-10. There are some differences between the master/bondsman relationships of the first century and the employee/employer relationships of our day, but the similarities are enough that the principles in these passages apply.

A child is to be allegiant to his parents. Ephesians 6:1-4.

And yes, God commands us to be allegiant to our rulers. We are to be faithful, devoted, and trustworthy citizens. Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17; etc.

The problem is when we fail to strike the proper balance. Our allegiance to the Lord always takes precedence over these or any other relationships. We are allegiant to our rulers and their laws except for the laws that would cause us to violate God's will. In such cases “we ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

So no, it is not idolatry to pledge allegiance to our parents, spouses, employers, country, etc. In fact, as we have seen, God demands such allegiance. It only becomes idolatry when we elevate our allegiance for any one of these over our allegiance to God.

-Michael Pickford

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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Southside Searcher, Volume 17, Number 04

The Rich Young Ruler

NEAR THE CONCLUSION of a conversation with Jesus, a certain man realized there was more to be done. So he asked a simple, yet profound question, “What do I still lack” (Matt. 19:20)? We know this man typically as the “Rich Young Ruler.” Even though this man eventually opted not to follow Jesus, there are still some good things we can learn from him. Consider these positive things about this ruler.

1) He Came To Jesus Enthusiastically. According to the text, Jesus did not approach this man, the man drew near to Jesus. Many today are waiting for an “experience” during which Jesus will miraculously come to them. Let the record reflect, Mark’s account of this happening sees this man “running” to Jesus (Mk. 10:17). Far too many are indifferent about Jesus. Far too many keep their distance from Jesus rather than desiring to be close to Him. If we want Jesus in our life, we must go to Him (Jam. 4:8). Have you?

2) He Asked A Great question. In fact, he asked the greatest question — “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life” (Matthew 19:16)? We ask a lot of questions in this life, some of which are very important. None, however, are more important than asking what needs to be done in order to gain salvation. A jailer once asked, “what must I do to be saved” (Acts 16:30)? Too many times, we fail to ask significant questions in the name of pride. Be willing to ask these great questions. Will you?

3) He Knew Of And Kept The Law. By his own admission, this man was one who obeyed the law (Matt. 19:20). In order to obey the law, one must know it. Though you and I do not follow the Law of Moses today, we absolutely owe our allegiance and obedience to the law of Christ found in the New Testament (I Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2). Always remember, a lack of knowledge will lead to destruction (Hos. 4:6). Study diligently (II Tim. 2:15).

4) This Man Was humble. His humility was seen in his asking “What do I still lack?” He realized though he had kept the law, there were other things about which he needed to be concerned. We need to adopt the same attitude on a daily basis — to realize those things we have left Humble. His humility was seen in his asking “What do I still lack?” He realized though he had kept the law, there were other things about which he needed to be concerned. We need to adopt the same attitude on a daily basis, to realize those things we have left undone, to recognize and admit our imperfections, to be sure we are working towards being the complete person God expects (Col. 4:12). He, too, displayed humility in kneeling before the Lord (Mk. 10:17). The Holy Book reminds its readers, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (I Pet. 5:6). Are we humble enough to accept the entirety of the Lord’s teaching? On this day, let us each appreciate the fact we very well may be lacking in certain areas. Let us go to Christ and to His word, find what is lacking and make the necessary applications and changes. Today, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves” (II Cor. 13:5).

-Larry R Ping II

Via firstcitychurchofchrist.com

Words

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

-Matthew 12:36-37

“With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”

-James 3:9-10

“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

-Colossians 4:6

“The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.”

-Proverbs 15:2

“Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.”

-Proverbs 12:22

“Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips And from a deceitful tongue.”

-Psalm 120:2

“A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.”

-Proverbs 11:13

“In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.”

-Proverbs 10:19

“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.”

-Proverbs 16:24

“A fool’s mouth is his destruction, And his lips are the snare of his soul.”

-Proverbs 18:7