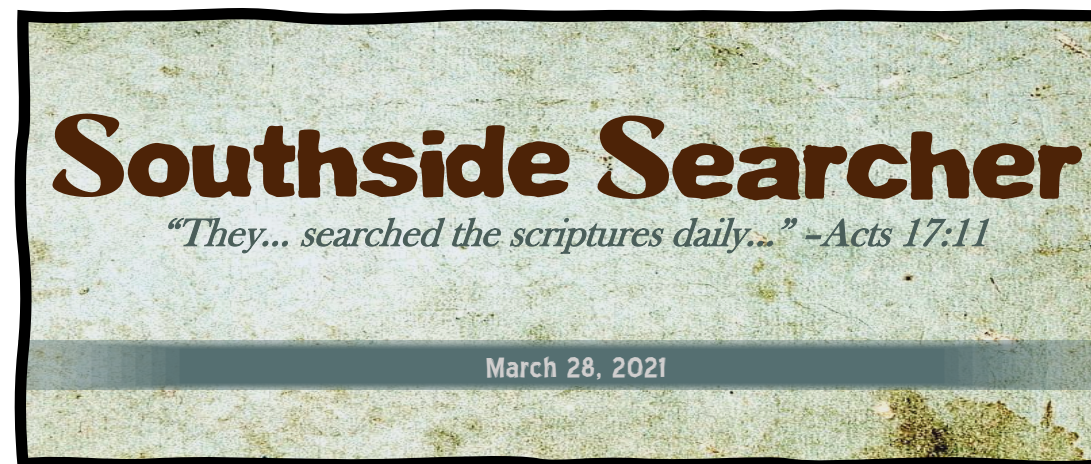


<p>DUTY LIST...</p> <p>SUNDAY MORNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford ➤ Scripture Reading...Kenny Todd Reading: TBA ➤ Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey ➤ Opening Prayer.....Robert Johnson ➤ Lord's Table: Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....Eli Todd Serve..... ➤ Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson <p>SUNDAY EVENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Song Leader.....Jeff Isbell ➤ Opening Prayer....Kenny Johnson ➤ Invitation.....Eli Todd ➤ Lord's Supper.....Mike P. / Eli T. ➤ Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd ➤ 	<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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“There’s No Shortcut Home”

Once, while in Publix, I heard one of those songs where it’s difficult to understand the words. I was able to make out the line, “There's no easy way out. There's no shortcut home. There's no easy way out. Givin' in can't be wrong.” I don’t know the primary message of the song, but those words made me think of the Christian’s life. It also made me consider a misconception some have about following Christ.

“There’s No Shortcut Home”: There are no shortcuts to heaven. Jesus spoke of the way to life. He said it was narrow and difficult (Matthew 7:14). He went on to say that few would make it because of its difficulty. Jesus taught in another place that one should count the cost before deciding to follow Him (Luke 14:25-33).

“Givin’ In Can’t Be Wrong”: Serving the Lord faithfully is challenging. So, some have adopted the mentality that it’s okay if they don’t get it completely right. Yes, we stumble from time to time, and God forgives us if we repent, confess, and ask His forgiveness (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-9). But some think they can hold on to certain sins because it’s difficult to be fully faithful. That’s the devil’s lie. Don’t be deceived. *“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever”* (Revelation 20:10). The Bible instructs us to lay aside the sin which so easily ensnares us (Hebrews 12:2). Don’t get discouraged by the difficult challenge. Look to Jesus. He kept His eyes on the reward. We can make it to heaven if we keep our eye on the prize (Hebrews 12:1-2).

-Michael Pickford
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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 13

“Right”

It is always important to be right, and to get things right. Sometimes we think we are right when we could not be more wrong. Being wrong always comes with negative consequences. Consider what the Bible says about “Right.”

1) Seeming Right. The wise man wrote, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but it’s end is the way of death”* (Proverbs 14:13; 16:25). If the way is wrong, why does man think it is right? We may never know in the end. It could be that man agrees with man’s logic or wisdom over what God’s word says (Romans 16:17-18). God’s way seems “foolish” to them (1 Corinthians 1:18ff). Perhaps God’s way seems too unreasonable to them. Emotions might be getting in the way. The reason does not matter, bypassing God’s ways is always wrong.

2) Thinking Right. *“The thoughts of the righteous are right, but the counsels of the wicked are deceitful”* (Proverbs 12:5). Right thinking is exceedingly important. Our words and our actions spring from our thoughts (Matthew 15:18-20). No wonder Jesus said, *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”* (Matthew 5:8).

3) Speaking Right. *“Listen, for I will speak of excellent things. And from the opening of my lips will come right things”* (Proverbs 8:6). Job uttered, *“How forcible are right words”* (Job 6:25). Our eternal destiny can be altered by the things that come from our mouth (Matthew 12:36-37). There is so much to be careful with when it comes to our tongues—Gossip, slander, lying, filthiness, blasphemy, hatefulness, complaining. Any one of these can cost us our eternal reward. How important is the line from that song we learned as a child— “O be careful little tongue what you say, O be careful little tongue what you say. For the Father up above is looking down in love; So, be careful little tongue what you say.”

4) Doing Right. There are some who *“did what was right in the eyes of the Lord”* (1 Kings 15:5) while others *“did evil in the sight of the Lord”* (1 Kings 15:26). What will your record show on the last day?

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The Faith Of Abraham

The word "faith" often brings to mind Abraham. His was certainly a life of trust in God no matter what the circumstances.

Abraham began his walk of faith by leaving his home of Ur. It is written, "by faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going" (Heb. 11 :8). Imagine the magnitude of this test. To leave his homeland, friends, and family and head to who knows where demonstrated an absolute trust in God.

Abraham continued to manifest his faith by accepting God's promises. He is the one "who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations" (Rom. 4:18). So great was his faith that he was even willing to take the life of his son, Isaac. While it might have been a hard thing to do, "by faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac... " (Heb. 11 :17). Only a genuine faith in God would lead one to such obedience.

What we must realize is that faith came no easier for Abraham than for us. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Either we believe God's word or we don't. Whether we do or not is demonstrated by our actions.

How does one demonstrate faith in God today? Belief in Christ (Jn. 8:24), Repentance of sin (Lk. 13:3), Confession of faith (Rom. 10:9-10), Being baptized (Mk. 16:16), and living faithfully (Rev. 2:10). This we will do, with the faith of Abraham.

-David McPherson