

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson
Reading: TBA
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Opening Prayer.....Eli Todd
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Eli Todd
Serve.....
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

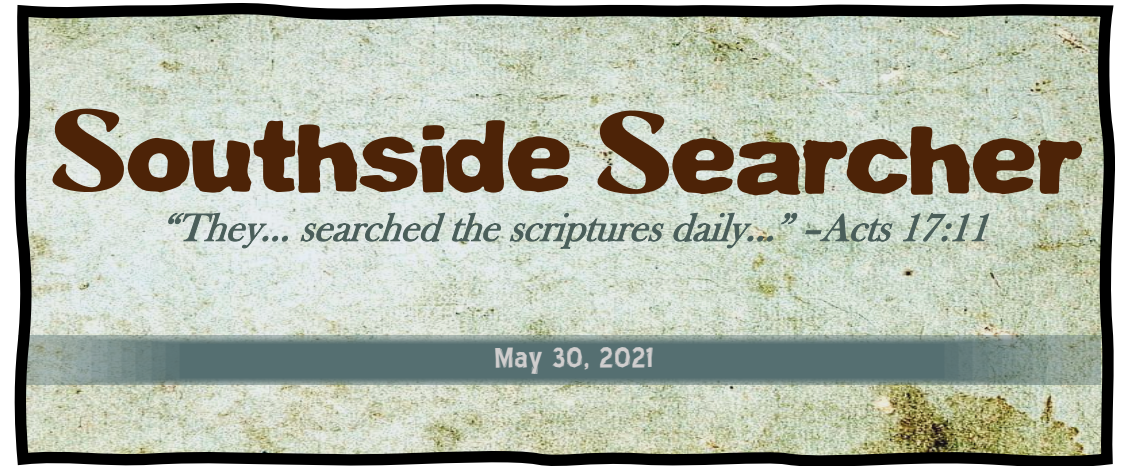
- Song Leader..... Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.... Kenny Johnson
- Invitation..... Michael Pickford
- Lord's Supper.....Mike P. / Eli T.
- Closing Prayer..... Eli Todd
-

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!



Excited

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS you get excited about? Many get excited about a vacation, a TV program, a movie, a new car, a new house, a birthday party, a wedding. It's good to get excited about these things, but what about spiritual things?

Do you get excited about the upcoming worship services (Hebrews 10:25)?

Do you get excited about studying the bible (Acts 17:11)?

Do you get excited about praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17)?

Do you get excited about contributing of your means (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)?

Do you get excited about singing spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)?

Do you get excited about sharing your faith with others (Acts 8:1-4; 2 Peter 3:9)?

It's shameful that instead of getting excited about serving the Lord, some have to practically force themselves to do the things God wants us to do in His service. Very often, they are so unexcited about these things that they neglect them altogether.

God wants us to be zealous in our service to Him (Titus 2:14). It is a great blessing to serve the Lord, and this should cause rejoicing (Philippians 4:4). David wrote "I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1). Is this you? are you excited about serving God?

-Michael Pickford
Mpickford3@comcast.net

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.

Please visit our website at www.defendthegospel.com

Bible Correspondance Courses Available At Your Request.

SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1167 South Lowry Street, Smyrna, TN 37167 | 615-459-7854

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Baptism

MUCH IS SAID IN the Gospel about baptism. Notice its...

Purpose. Ananias said to Saul, “*Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the Name of the Lord*” (Acts 22:16). Baptism’s purpose is to wash away the sins of the sinner. Through baptism, one calls on the name of the Lord. Jesus said one must be baptized to be saved. There is nothing special or miraculous about water, it’s just an act of obedience to the Lord. It’s the blood of Christ that washes away our sins (Ephesians 1:7), but we contact His blood through baptism (Romans 6:3).

Pattern. Many religions practice sprinkling or pouring in the place of baptism, while calling these practices “Baptism.” Our English word “Baptism” is merely an anglicized version of the Greek word—*baptizo*. The Greek word is defined variously with words like “To dip, to plunge, to overwhelm, to submerge...” So, we’re dealing with a burial in water. In fact, Paul wrote, “*Buried with Him in baptism...*” (Colossians 2:12). It makes sense to refer to baptism as a burial because baptism makes us new creatures in which the dead man of sin is buried and the new man arises to “*Walk in newness of life*” (Romans 6:4; Ephesians 2:1). This is the pattern given for baptism by Paul in Romans 6:1-5.

Participants. There’s no such thing as “Baptism-only salvation.” Scriptural baptism is only for those whose hearts have been prepared for it. One must hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus as God’s Son (John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 2:38), and confess faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10). Only after doing these things does one become a scriptural candidate for baptism.

One who participates in baptism understands that its purpose is to wash away his sins and place him in Christ and in Christ’s church (Galatians 3:26-27; Acts 2:47). An infant or small child cannot be a scriptural participant in baptism because he does not possess the emotional capacity to understand and appreciate the true nature of sin. An infant lacks the capacity to believe, and the Lord specifically taught that baptism is for believers. Not being able to commit sin, infants and small children have nothing to be saved from. They are “safe,” and heaven bound (2 Samuel 12:22-23).

-Michael Pickford
Mpickford3@comcast.net

The Last Days

SOME WOULD HAVE US believe the last days have only recently come upon us, while others claim they will begin in the future. What does the Bible say?

There are three major divisions (or, dispensations) in the history of man. During the Patriarchal Age God dealt directly with the heads of families; like with Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Etc. The Mosaic Age began when God gave the Law of Moses to Israel. Jesus Himself lived under this dispensation. The Messianic or Christian Age is referred to in the Bible as the “last days.”

The Last days began at Pentecost (Acts 2) when the apostles were gathered in Jerusalem and the Holy Spirit came upon them as Jesus had promised (Jn. 16:13; Acts 1:8). A visible sign of this came in the form of tongues of fire which sat upon each of them. The apostles began to speak in languages they had never learned. “*Devout men, from every nation under heaven*” (Acts 2:5) began to ask among themselves, “*whatever could this mean?*” (Acts 2:12). Peter explained, “*...this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God...*” (vs. 14). This was the beginning of the “last days” as prophesied by Joel.

We have been living in the last days since that Pentecost almost two thousand years ago. This means we are now living under the direction of Christ and His Gospel! “*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son*” (Heb. 1:1, 2). It also means we must deal with false teachers, “*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...*” (1 Tim. 4:1). These can be perilous times, “*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come...*” (2 Tim. 3:1-9). Peter wrote, “*Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts...*” (2 Pet. 3:3).

One could think we are living in the worst time of human history. Ironically, however, this is the best time of all! We live under a time when the resurrection of Christ is a confirmed historical fact. What a blessing! And remember, as we struggle through all the trouble of the last days, Jesus has promised to be with us until the end of this age (Matt. 28:20).

-Michael Pickford
Mpickford3@comcast.net