

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- 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

SUNDAY EVENING

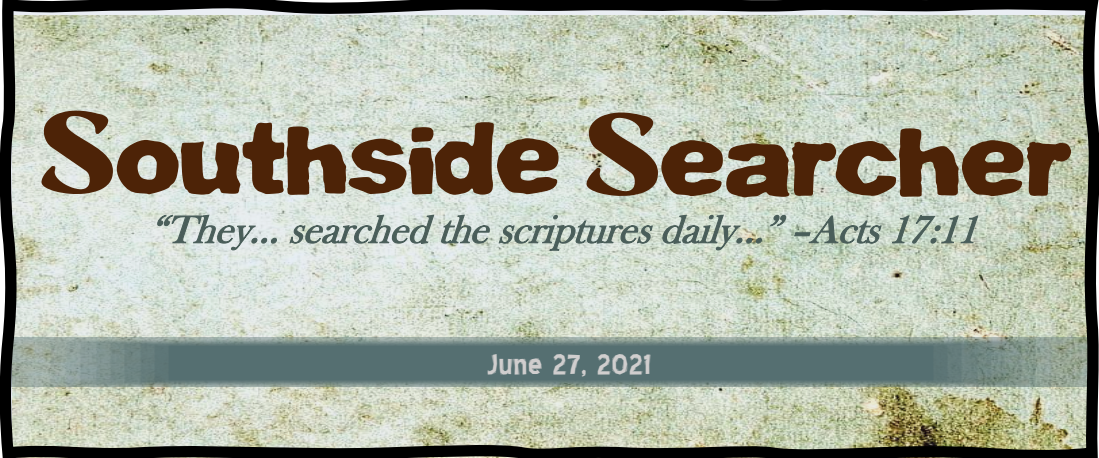
- Song Leader..... Jeff Isbell
- Opening Prayer.... Kenny Johnson
- Invitation..... Eli Todd
- Lord's Supper.....Mike P. / Eli T.
- Closing Prayer..... Kenny Todd
-

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!



“He Must Have Sinned”

“And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” -John 9:2

Some are no doubt suffering directly because of a specific sin(s) in their lives or directly because of a specific sin of someone else. One man has liver cancer due to drinking. Another suffers disease caused by fornication. Another is paralyzed because a stranger was driving drunk. But we must be careful not to think that because someone gets cancer or experiences some other life tragedy that it's the result of some direct (perhaps hidden) sin in his life. Sometimes it's just the result of unfortunate occurrences.

In our text above, Jesus explained that this particular man was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him (vs. 3). God Himself said that Job was “Blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil” (Job 1:1), yet we know that Job suffered tremendously. His three friends offered little comfort as they insisted that Job must have some secret sin stowed away in his life. But they were wrong; that wasn't the case at all! This mentality can lead us to wrongly accuse or think evil of an innocent brother or sister in Christ. Or we may wrongly judge parents who bring a deformed or sick child into this world.

Sometimes a person tortures himself thinking he is suffering because of some sin he committed. This mentality could cause one to leave God thinking that He hasn't really forgiven them since they are still suffering.

Let us be careful regarding things we know nothing about. God knows one's heart; we don't! Sometimes bad things really do happen to good, godly people!

-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

Southside Searcher, Volume 17, Number 26

Ashamed

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels”
-Luke 9:26

We’re not comfortable with the idea of shame. There are many things we should not be ashamed of being ashamed of. I’m not ashamed of the fact that I would be ashamed to use filthy language, etc. There are many things we should be ashamed of, and many things we must not be ashamed of.

The Lord said, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels” (Luke 9:26). Now there are many who would claim that they are not ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ, and yet when you begin to discuss bible matters with them, you find they are indeed ashamed of some of His words.

For example, Jesus plainly declared in Mark 16:16, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Now I’m not ashamed of these words. I will boldly use them in print, in sermons, and even on the internet. After all, the Lord spoke them – they are His words! But ever since the Lord spoke these words many have been ashamed of them. Man has tried to exclude them from the Bible but that hasn’t worked out. Men have tried diligently to explain why they don’t mean what they say but I’m not buying it. Neither should you! Because if you do, Jesus promised He will be ashamed of you on the last day! Don’t be ashamed of Christ’s words, Trust Him!

We are ashamed of Christ when we try to keep the fact that we are Christians from certain friends, co-workers, etc. We even display shame by refusing to “Talk religion” with those in the world. Jesus wants us to “Preach it on the housetops” (Matthew 10:27). Be ashamed when you sin, but never be ashamed to wear the name of Christ, even if it brings reproach (1 Peter 4:14-16).

-Michael Pickford
Mpickford3@comcast.net

Focus

Regardless of the realm under consideration there are always problems when things are out of focus. Our spiritual focus is of primary importance (Colossians 3:1-2; Matthew 6:33). Many things can cause us to lose our focus on the Lord and on His kingdom...

POSSESSIONS. Jesus warned against trying to lay up treasures on earth. He insisted that we focus on treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:22-23). He went on to discuss the good (healthy) eye and the bad (Unhealthy) eye. When the physical eye is sick it loses its focus and a distorted view of things is the result. Our spiritual eye is bad when we begin to place more value on things that are temporary than on things eternal. Many Christians have been deceived by groups that promote the “Millionaire mindset.” But even those who don’t go this far often neglect spiritual matters due to overworking for perishable things. When “Getting rich” becomes our purpose for working our sight is out of focus and we need to “Cease” (Proverbs 23:4). Many have experienced great problems in life due to their pursuit of the “Almighty dollar;” and some have even strayed from the faith (1 Timothy 6:10). We must learn to be content with what God has blessed us with (1 Timothy 6:6) and remember that “One’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15b).

PURSUIITS. Hobbies, vacations, children’s ball teams (and other activities) – these are all fine if we don’t allow them to interfere with the tremendous amount of work we should be doing in the Lord’s kingdom. Paul crucified himself for the cause of Christ; so must we (Galatians 2:20). Being a Christian requires tremendous sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2). Are we willing to take the shears to our activities and devote more time to developing ourselves spiritually?

PROBLEMS. Some lose their focus due to health problems, tragedies, or even difficulties that arise because of their being a Christian (Matthew 13:21). Paul continued to be highly productive in the kingdom because he refused to focus on his problems and setbacks while focusing rather on the invisible, eternal rewards awaiting him (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). The Lord endured the cross “For the joy that was set before Him” (Hebrews 12:2). If we want heaven, we must focus!

-Michael Pickford
Mpickford3@comcast.net