

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Robert Johnson
Reading: Psalm 91:1-16
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Eli Todd
Serve.....
- Closing Prayer.....Eli Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

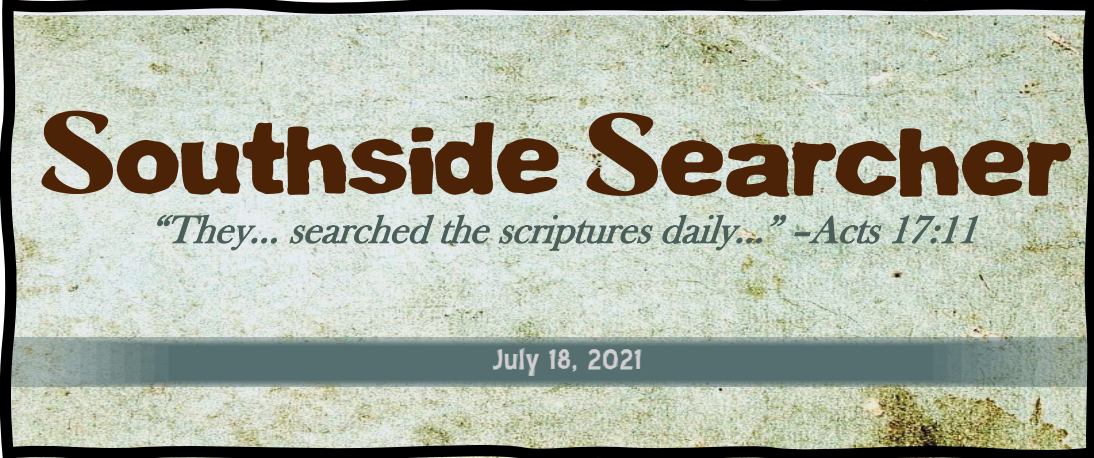
- Song Leader..... Eli Todd
- Opening Prayer.... Michael Pickford
- Invitation..... Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Supper.....Mike P. / Eli T.
- Closing Prayer..... Kenny Todd

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!



Making Excuses

WE HAVE ALL HEARD THE old excuse offered up by the student, “The dog ate my homework.” It turns out adults can be quite creative in making excuses for being late for work. “My driveway disappeared” (through flash flooding), “A bear attacked my car,” “My child flushed my keys down the toilet,” “I got caught in a parade,” “I heard it was going to snow.” While these excuses can be humorous, it is never humorous to make excuses for neglecting your spiritual responsibilities.

Adam and Eve tried to offer excuses when they sinned (Genesis 3:12-13). Moses tried to make excuses as to why he could not go speak to Pharaoh about letting God’s people go. Aaron tried to make excuses when confronted about making the golden calf (Exodus 32:22). Saul made an excuse after he unlawfully offered a sacrifice, and then he tried to make excuses for sparing the king of Amalek along with the best of the animals (1 Samuel 13:11-12; 15:20-21). Then there was the one-talent man who tried to make an excuse for his lack of action (Matthew 25:24). God accepted none of these excuses.

What kind of excuses do I make for not doing the things God has told me to do? Do I make excuses for not praying as I should? Reading and studying the Bible? Sharing the Gospel with others? Not attending the assemblies of the saints, or the Bible studies offered by the church? Visiting the sick? Helping those who are less fortunate when the opportunity presents itself? In our minds, our “excuses” too often sound too reasonable. Remember, Satan is clever, but God is not deceived.

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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.

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Hopeless!

WE SOMETIMES SPEAK OF situations, causes, or even people as being “Hopeless.” The Bible also speaks of some who are hopeless. Proverbs speaks of hopelessness in relation to...

WISDOM. *“Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him”* (Proverbs 26:12). One who is wise in his own eyes is overwhelmed with conceit. These have often deceived themselves into believing they are absolutely right, period! They do not entertain the thought that they could be wrong. This is deadly in relation to spiritual things. We are to trust in God rather than our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). Jesus spoke a parable about a Pharisee who was “Full of himself” when he prayed (Luke 18:11). He was so blinded by his own accomplishments that it never occurred to him that he might be wrong – lost! (Consider Matthew 7:21-23). *“Do not be wise in your own opinion”* (Romans 12:16). *“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up”* (James 4:10).

WORDS. *“Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”* (Proverbs 29:20). A man who speaks without thinking often finds himself in tough situations with their fellow man and dangerous situations with God. Slow thinking coupled with a quick tongue has often led to gossip, slander, prejudicial statements, et al. all of which God condemns (Romans 1:29-30; 1 Timothy 5:21). Don’t make judgments before getting the facts! *“A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion”* (Proverbs 18:2- ESV). A man should be swift to hear and slow to speak (James 1:19). The most dangerous realm of hasty speech is in that of handling God’s word. Before preaching something, make sure you’ve studied it thoroughly. Before teaching someone the word, make sure you understand what you’re sharing!

WICKEDNESS. *“The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish”* (Proverbs 10:28). It often seems that wicked people have success in this life. They sometimes have the biggest houses, the nicest cars, and the most beautiful families. But their wickedness and disobedience will ultimately rob them of all these things; if not on earth, in eternity. Unless they repent and obey, they have no hope for the hereafter (Proverbs 11:7; 23:17-18).

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Hope

“Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD.”
-Psalm 31:24

“Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance;”
-Psalm 42:5

“You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.”
-Psalm 119:114

“I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.”
-Acts 24:15

“through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God... Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”
-Romans 5:2, 5

“For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”
-Romans 8:24-25

“rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.”
-Romans 12:12

“the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”
-Ephesians 1:8

“because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.”
-Colossians 1:5

“But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.”
-1 Thessalonians 1:5

“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.”
-Hebrews 6:19

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”
-1 Peter 1:3