

IMITATION

Michael Pickford

As children, we imitate our friends, our teachers, and especially our parents. As we grow into adults, many of us take on more of a personal identity, yet we still imitate the actions and characteristics of others from time to time. We tend to imitate those with whom we spend the most time; sometimes without even realizing it. This is why it's so crucial that we spend as much time with other Christians as we can. To imitate someone is to pattern yourself after them. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). It's good to pattern your life after faithful Christians. "...but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promise" (Heb. 6:12). We must imitate the good in others, not the bad! Sadly, sometimes we do both. John wrote, "Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good..." (3 Jn. 11). It is most important that we imitate God! "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children" (Eph. 5:1). This is done by reading and studying His word, then applying it in our lives. What kind of people, actions, characteristics, and things do you imitate? Good or evil? 

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

EVERYONE WELCOME!

- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 60 Second daily Radio Spot, "Moment of Truth." WGNS 100.5 FM, 101.9 FM, 1450 AM
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Children's Class, 2nd & 4th Sundays, 5:30 pm
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm



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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." –Acts 17:11

Volume 6, Number 42

October 24, 2010

THE LOCAL CHURCH AND THE GOSPEL

Michael Pickford

Regarding the Gospel, the local church must...

Stay Focused. Many local churches lose their focus. Instead of focusing on the Gospel, their primary focus seems to be on the wisdom of the world. More and more preachers have their sermons saturated with "Wise" quotes from popular men. One here and there to emphasize a point is certainly acceptable (Titus 1:12), but often these quotes and thoughts seem to outweigh scripture in the pulpits. And often, the quotes used do not reflect sound biblical truth, but rather contradicts Gospel teachings. Paul did not rely on the wisdom of men, but on the Gospel of our Lord to convert folks (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

Stand Fast. In writing to the church at Colossae, Paul rejoiced to know of their "steadfastness" in the faith (Colossians 2:5). He warned them not to be deceived by the persuasive words of those who would lead them away from the Gospel (Verse 4). The church is the Pillar and ground of the truth and it needs to stand firmly upon that foundation (1 Timothy 3:15). Churches can become unsound. They can come to the point where they will no longer accept "Sound doctrine" (2

Timothy 4:3). A local church can lose its fellowship with Christ by not standing fast (Revelation 1:12-13, 20; 2:1, 5, 15-16). Gospel preaching must be sound. Someone once said "A church is only as strong as the preaching it demands." A local church, rather than having itching ears for what it wants to hear, must DEMAND that preachers preach sound, wholesome doctrine. Paul demanded such of both Timothy and Titus (2 Timothy 1:13; Titus 2:1). Many churches of Christ have strayed into error due to the leadership of their unsound preacher. Paul wanted folks to follow him only insofar as he faithfully followed Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Sound Forth. Paul commended the church of the Thessalonians because from them "The word of the Lord has sounded forth" (1 Thessalonians 1:8). It was God's eternal purpose that the Gospel be made known by the church (Ephesians 3:9-10). The purpose of this sounding forth is two-fold. (1) To save the lost. The Gospel is God's power of salvation to all who believe (Romans 1:16). (2) To keep the saved! The Lord set up different ones in the church for the purpose of equipping the saints, and edifying (building up) the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16). 

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IGNORING GOD

Michael Pickford

God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). The rest of the verse goes on to explain the reason for their lack of knowledge. It was because they chose to be ignorant by rejecting the knowledge of God. Many today are making this same mistake by rejecting the Gospel of Christ and substituting in its place their own wisdom or the wisdom of other men. Paul wrote of such people in Romans 10:3, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God." Consider some ways in which men today ignore God's righteousness.

Many teach a system of "Faith Only" salvation. They contend that all one has to do to be saved is believe on Jesus as the Son of God. Their basis for this teaching is a perversion of Romans 5:1 which states that we have been justified by faith. No one denies faith as a necessity for salvation, but the text never said faith "only." These folks ignore what God said in James 2:24, "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." Some try to ignore the fact that the Old Testament has been nailed to the cross. They seek to authorize some of their religious practices based on the Law of Moses. They ignore such passages as Hebrews 8:7-13 which plainly teaches that the old law has been made obsolete by the bringing in of the new covenant (vs. 13). Many ignore God's clear statements about Baptism being necessary for salvation. Jesus stated, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Paul taught in many places that baptism saves (Rom. 6:1-4; Gal. 3:26, 27; Col. 2:12, etc.). Peter made clear the necessity of baptism for salvation (Acts 2:38). He stated in 1 Peter 3:21, "There is also an antitype which now saves us - baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Ignoring God's word and substituting the traditions and doctrines of men are condemned By Jesus (Matthew 15:7-9). Read and heed the entire Gospel. Don't be guilty of ignoring God. 🔍

THANKS TO ALL!

A big thanks to everyone who attended our Gospel Meeting faithfully. Also to everyone who was so diligent inviting others to come. We had good numbers throughout the week. Thanks to all of our men who led singing, prayers, etc. Our next meeting will be coming up in June. Let's begin planning ahead.



SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

Christian Lane

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Tony Jenkins
- Bible Reading by.....Sam Miller
Reading: Hebrews 12:12-15
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....Chris Meade
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Invitation..... Ben Green
- Lord's Table.....John Nelson

Wednesday Evening

- Song Leader..... Kenny Todd
- Invitation..... ..Ben Reagh

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

**Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!**

Obey Today!