


“OFF YOUR ROCKER”

Michael Pickford

The phrase “Off your rocker” is used in reference to those who don’t seem to be making any sense. It’s interesting that while Paul was presenting the Gospel to Agrippa in Acts 26, Festus spoke up with loud voice and said “Paul, You are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!” (Acts 26:24).

Folks sometimes think we’re off our rockers because we don’t join the world in their partying, drinking and immorality. But don’t get discouraged, we’re not serving the Lord to please people; we are serving the Lord to please God! Peter wrote “In regard to these, they think it strange that you do

not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you” (1 Peter 4:4). Our pure lives are a spotlight to their wickedness. They don’t like their evil deeds being highlighted, so instead of changing their lives, they ridicule us for being righteous.

But sometimes the opposite occurs, and people come to the Lord because of your pure life. “*Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works, which they observe, glorify God...*” (1 Peter 2:12). It’s not crazy to serve God, it’s crazy not to! 

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!



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

Southside church of Christ, 1167 South Lowry
Smyrna, TN 37167, Phone (615) 459-7854

“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

Volume 7, Number 36

October 02, 2011

OUR SONGS

Michael Pickford

There are some essential truths we need to understand regarding the songs in our worship services. While there are several more than we will discuss in this article, the Bible tells us that our songs must be...


Sung. Not played, not whistled, not hummed; but sung! Notice the first word in Ephesians 5:19... “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, swinging and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” Whatever all is involved in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, we know they are to be spoken, sung! We have no authority for mechanical instruments of music in worship; nor for whistling or humming. Singing is to teach and admonish (Colossians 3:16); but notes simply played, whistled or hummed cannot teach anyone anything! This takes words.

Spiritual. I’ve heard of churches singing songs like “My country tis to Thee,” “America,” “America the Beautiful,” “Dixie,” “Star Spangled Banner,” “When Johnny comes marching home again,” etc. These are great songs about our country and it is certainly ok to sing these songs in the home or any other setting, but the songs we sing in services are to be

“*Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.*” Our songs are to praise the Lord, not the country. Some denominations include popular Pop, Rock, Rap, Country, etc songs in their services, no doubt to appeal to the young. This is unspiritual and unscriptural.

Scriptural. There are many religious songs in which religious error is taught. It is not my intention to do an expose here of these songs; I only want to emphasize the need for us to be aware of the words we are singing.

Song leaders especially need to take note. Study the teaching of the songs you have chosen before you lead them. Make sure they are scripturally sound. If you’re unsure about something, study it further, and/or ask your preacher or elder.

Remember, one of the purposes of our singing is to “Teach” one another (Colossians 3:16). This being so, if we sing religious error we are actually teaching and promoting religious error. Paul said “*I will sing with the spirit and I will also sing with the understanding*” (1 Corinthians 14:15). It behooves us to have a good Understanding what we’re singing, and if it’s error, we must not sing it! 

Evangelist & Editor: Michael Pickford, 615-471-1612, mpickford3@comcast.net

www.defendthegospel.com

WATCH!
Michael Pickford

The New Testament has a great deal to say about this idea of watching. In discussing the Last Day, Jesus said, “*Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming*” (Matthew 24:42). When bringing home the lesson of the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus said “*Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of man is coming*” (Matthew 25:13). In the story of the faithful and evil servant, Jesus said, “*The master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth*” (Matthew 24:50-51).

The Holy Spirit also had much to say about watching through the apostle Paul. “*Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong*” (1 Corinthians 16:13). In discussing the final Day, Paul wrote to the church of the Thessalonians “*Therefore let us not sleep, as other do, but let us watch and be sober*” (1 Thessalonians 5:6). Peter exhorted his readers to “*Be vigilant*” (1 Peter 5:8). Vigilant means watchful.

So, why so much talk about watching, and what does it all mean? Well, in most of the contexts of the passages above the final judgment day was in view. The idea of being watchful is simply that of being ready; that is, being prepared. By being told to watch, we are being told to prepare ourselves for the final judgment day.

There are two facts here we must seriously consider.

FACT 1: We do not know when Jesus will return. Remember Jesus’ words, “*Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming*” (Matthew 24:42). He went on in the next verse to explain that His coming will be as a thief in the night. Paul also told us that the coming of the Lord would be as a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2). Peter also said, “*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night*” (2 Peter 3:10). What does this mean? Well, when a thief is planning to rob you, he comes when you do not expect him to come. He comes at night because that is the time you are likely to be asleep, and he has the cover of darkness to hide his presence. Further, if he is efficient, he will plan ahead, learning the times when you are home and when you are not, so as to take you by surprise so he don’t get caught. The fact is, a thief will not call you up and tell you he is planning to rob you, and when. The Lord’s return will take us by surprise, He could come any second, and then it will be too late to prepare.

FACT 2: We do not know when we will die. Many passages teach this idea (Luke 12:16-20; James 4:13-17). But if we will get ourselves ready to meet the Lord, it will not matter when we die or when He returns, because we will be watching, that is, we will be ready. Have you obeyed the Gospel? Are you watching faithfully? 🕒

Don’t forget our Gospel Meeting with Danny Allen October 16-21.
Flyers available in the foyer and on our website.

SERMON NOTES

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

Spiritual 3G Network

**STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11**

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Ben Reagh
Reading: Psalm 131
- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord’s Table.....Kenny Todd

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Green
- Invitation.....Pickford

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!