

## THANK GOD FOR ICE CREAM!

Michael Pickford

It's interesting how a group of Christians will meet together at a restaurant for a meal. Invariably, they will say a prayer before they eat, thanking God for the meal. On another occasion, the same people will meet up at an ice cream place. They get their ice cream and dig right in, with no prayer. I've always wondered about this curious anomaly.

Maybe we all need a reminder to be thankful for the little things in life. It's easy to thank God for that new job, the new house, the new car. It's easy to thank Him for our health, for our children, etc. But what about those things we sometimes take for granted?

When's the last time you thanked God for the air you breath, the rain, the sunshine? The Bible teaches us that in God we live and move and have our very being (Acts 17:28). Many passages encourage us to pray; most of them exhort us to include thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, etc.).

Remember, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning"* (James 1:17). So While you're thanking God for the "Big" Blessings, don't forget the ice cream. 

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



- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

Volume 8, Number 13

March 25, 2012

### THREE SECONDS

Michael Pickford

There are a lot of "Seconds" spoken of in the Bible. Consider the...

**Second Commandment.** This is found in Matthew 22:34-40 where Jesus is being "Tested" with a question about the greatest. He informed His listeners that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God; but the second is like it, "Love your neighbor as yourself." But who is my neighbor? The parable of the Good Samaritan was told in order to answer this very question (Luke 10:29ff). The lesson of the parable is that one's neighbor is not just the one who lives in the house next door; one's neighbor is anyone that we have the opportunity and means to help. This could include our "Enemy." It's easy to love your friends, even those outside of Christ can do this (Matthew 5:46-47), but we must love our enemies as well (Matthew 5:43-45).

**Second Covenant.** The Bible speaks of two covenants, the Old and the New. They are referred to as the "First" and the "Second" (Hebrews 8:7); the "Old" and the "New" (Hebrews 8:13). The first covenant was that which was given to the children of Israel to rule them (Jeremiah 31:31-34). It was added

"Because of Transgressions till the Seed should come" (Galatians 3:19). Many in religion today want to go back to the first covenant in order to justify some of their religious practices; but the Bible tells us the first covenant has become obsolete (Hebrews 8:13). It's still God's word and it's there to give us examples of disobedience and obedience to God (1 Corinthians 10:11), but as far as being our authority in religion, it has become obsolete.

**Second Coming.** At the ascension of Christ, two men in white apparel stood by the apostles and told them *"This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven"* (Acts 1:11). No passage teaches that Jesus will ever set foot on this earth again, but when He comes again the faithful saints will meet Him in the air and be joined with Him in heaven forever more. But those who do not know God and who do not obey the Gospel of Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Many look forward to the second coming with fear and trepidation, but there's no need if you're serving Him faithfully. 

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## 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!**

# NO NEED FOR MAN'S CREEDS

Michael Pickford

There are many man-made Creed books in religion today. They are not generally brought into the pulpit; but they are found in the offices of the different denominations' ministers; the concepts in them are studied and then implemented into the sermons. To teach anything contrary to these creeds could bring rebuke, discipline, and even sanction.

I wonder about the very existence of these Creed Books. I once heard a man say regarding man-made creed books, "If they say less than the Bible, they say too little; if they say more than the Bible, they say too much; and if they say the same thing as the Bible, there's no need, we have the Bible!" Amen! This is a biblically accurate concept. Paul wrote, "All Scripture in given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). If I need doctrine, I don't need man-made

creeds; Scripture provides all I need to be complete. The same is true for discipline; I don't need the man-made disciplines, or catechisms, etc. I can be a complete man of God with Scripture alone.

Those who go beyond the doctrine of Christ lose their fellowship with God, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ, does not have God..." (2 John 9). God wants us to worship and serve Him according to what He has revealed in His word, not according to man-made doctrines derived from the wisdom of man. Jesus condemned the religious elite of His day for "Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). Man-made creed books distort God's wisdom by either adding to or taking away from His words, or both. "Every word of God is pure...Do not add to His words. Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:5-6). "Indeed let God be true but every man a liar" (Romans 3:4).

Remember Our Singing Night Tonight  
at 6:00

Lessons on Marriage & The Family  
Every First Sunday Evening.

## SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11

### Justifying Sin

Introduction:

I. \_\_\_\_\_

II. \_\_\_\_\_

III. \_\_\_\_\_

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Sam Miller  
Reading: Romans 3:5-8
- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Opening Prayer.....Justin Pragel
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Lynn Buttrey  
Serve.....Tony Jenkins  
Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Ben Reagh

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Lord's Table.....Lynn Buttrey

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Ben Reagh

Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!

#### 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!