

Pearls from Proverbs



By Michael Pickford

Envy

“Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the Lord all the day.” -Proverbs 23:17

The green eyed monster of envy rears its head when we begin to begrudge the fact that worldly sinners often have nicer houses, better cars, and more success. Don't envy them! Instead, busy yourself in doing the work of the Lord; you'll find a sense of satisfaction and contentment that the rich sinner will never know.

Eternity

“For surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off.” -Proverbs 23:18

The rich sinner possesses nice stuff in this world, but earthly treasures will burn up. Don't envy him, just busy yourself with laying up treasures in heaven – eternal treasures (Matthew 6:19-21). Focus on the “Hereafter” where your hope rests; and remember, the ones who are truly blessed are often not the ones who appear to be blessed.

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 10, Number 03

January 19, 2014

THE WORD OF GOD

Michael Pickford

There are so many wonderful things to say about God's word! The word of God...

GUIDES ME. *“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path”* (Psalm 119:105). Guides, manuals, and directions abound in our society. Unfortunately, many disregard them, which often leads to improper and sometimes unsafe assembly of products. But how improper and unsafe to neglect the reading of God's guide – the Holy Bible! We should pray as the Psalmist, *“For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me”* (Psalm 31:3). Peter said to the Lord, *“To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life”* (John 6:68). Some speak of other great religious leaders who gave great guidance. But if you go to Buddha's grave you'll find it occupied. If you go to Muhammad's grave you'll find it occupied. You'll find the Popes' graves occupied. It's the Lord Jesus Christ who defeated death and it is to His words we must go to have eternal life!

GUARDS ME. *“Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!”* (Psalm 119:11). The armor of God that is supplied through

Christ provides us the strength and power we need to *“Stand against the wiles of the devil”* (Ephesians 6:11). One piece of this armor is *“The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”* (Verse 17). Jesus wielded the word against Satan by responding to each temptation with *“It is written”* (Matthew 4:1-11). Hiding God's word in our hearts is crucial to winning the daily battles we face. If I'm tempted to lie, I've memorized Revelation 21:8 and it guards me. If I'm tempted to backbite or gossip, I've hidden Romans 1:29-30 in my heart and it guards me. If I'm tempted to watch a movie or TV program that uses sinful behavior to entertain people, I recall Psalm 101:3, *“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes...”* (Psalm 101:3), and it guards me!

GOADS ME. Each day as I read God's word I am reminded of another challenge. If I've gotten lazy or unconcerned, God's word goads me to be Zealous for good works (Titus 2:14). If I'm tempted to miss an assembly, God's word goads me to not forsake (Hebrews 10:25). The word of God isn't a book of suggestions; it's a Volume for victory! What has the word of God done for you today? 🔍

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

www.defendthegospel.com

WHERE DO YOU FIND REFUGE?

Jesse Flowers

Throughout time people have found certain things in life that give them comfort and provide a sense of security. For some it is their nice homes with advanced security systems protecting them from any threat of danger. For others it is their jobs that pay well and help them live quite comfortably. Further, you will find those who identify their refuge as their stocks and mutual funds where they have invested their retirement nest egg. Yet, some folks would not hesitate to say it is in the company of their families and close friends that they find refuge. Where do you find refuge?

It is easy to site many examples from the Bible where the people of God sought refuge in the wrong things or people. For example, how often did Israel choose to seek refuge in the arms of false gods, or desire to return to Egypt for safety and protection?

“He will say: ‘Where are their gods, the rock in which they sought refuge? Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise and help you, and be your refuge’” (Deuteronomy 32:37-38). “Look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him” (Isaiah 36:6).

People have not changed. Numerous

individuals continue to place their trust and confidence in the gods of this land (Joshua 24:15). Such things as: material wealth (I Timothy 6:6-10, 17); the praise and approval of men (John 12:42-43); the wisdom of men (I Corinthians 2:4-5); the passing pleasures of sin (Hebrews 11:25) like drugs, alcohol, and sexual immorality. It is in such things that the world finds the refuge that they seek, but it always leaves them feeling unfulfilled, dissatisfied, and even miserable.

Friend, where do you find refuge for strength, comfort, and security? Is it in the aforementioned things or do you find it elsewhere? Children of God know that true refuge is not found in the temporary things of this life, but only in the eternal, which shall not pass away (2 Corinthians 4:18). Saints seek and find refuge in things far different than anything this world has to offer.

We find refuge in: brethren who sincerely care for our well-being (Romans 12:10); the power and comfort of prayer (Philippians 4:6); the inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17); a Savior who continues to intercede on our behalf (I John 2:1); the hope and promise of heaven (Philippians 3:20). “The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deut. 33:27). What a splendid thought indeed! -

"Trust in the Lord"

-Proverbs 3:5-6

SERMON NOTES

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

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

Let There Be Light

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Bible Reading by.....Frank Anderson
Reading: Genesis 1:1-5
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Ben Green
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Kenny Johnson
Serve.....John Nelson
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

**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!