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DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson
Reading: Psalm 119:73-80
- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....Robert Johnson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader..... Michael Pickford
- Opening Prayer.... Kenny Todd
- Invitation..... Michael Pickford
- Lord's Supper.....Michael Pickford
- Closing Prayer..... Kenny Johnson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

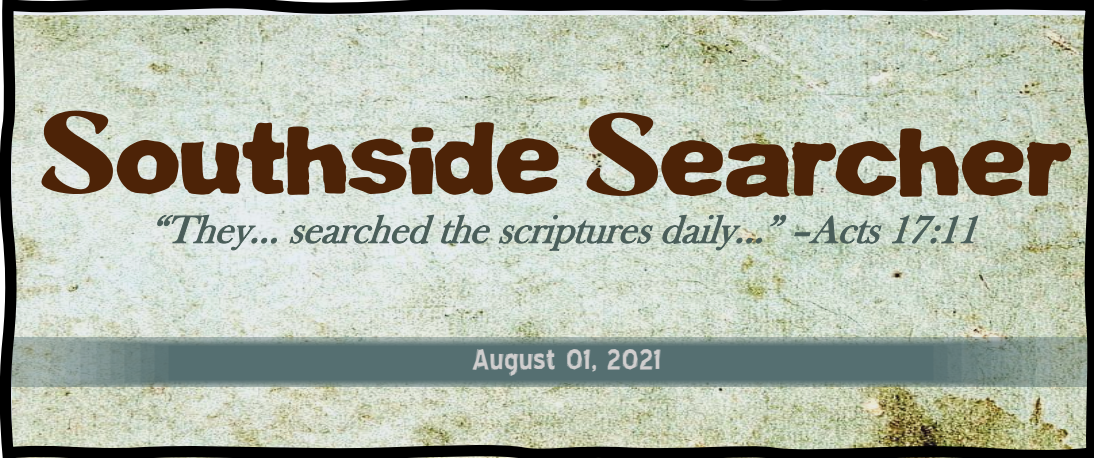
- Song Leader... Jeff Isbell
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

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

Obey Today!



Words Mean Things!

WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY where people think that when someone says something it can mean whatever they want it to mean. It is done with politician's statements all the time. News reporters take a soundbite out of context and then report what the statement meant to them. They sometimes have the entire country in an uproar over something the speaker never meant. And this can and does cause serious problems for all of us.

But it's worse when the same process is done with the Bible. Words mean things! And this is especially true with God's word. People say things like, "The Bible speaks to me in one way, and it speaks to you in another way." Or "Everybody has their own interpretation." Or "That's just your interpretation." All these statements and more like them are saying the same thing, "The Bible can mean anything you want it to mean, and that's OK."

But it's not OK! Words mean things! God's word has one message for us, and when we twist it to say something different, we are guilty of putting words into God's mouth, and this makes us liars (Proverbs 30:5-6). With sincere hearts we can know exactly what God means. We can understand the message He intended (John 8:31-32; Ephesians 3:3-4). Don't indict God as being incapable of communicating with us in a way that we can understand Him! "Understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17).

Michael Pickford
Mpickford3@comcast.net

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.



1167 South Lowry Street, Smyrna, TN 37167 | 615-459-7854
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Christ Is Preeminent

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER I recognize and respect it, Christ is the King of kings and Lord of Lords. He is preeminent (Matthew 28:18, Colossians 1:18). As far as My respecting His preeminence...

Christ Desires It. It is the desire of Christ that I recognize Him to be the Preeminent One. He desires that I display my respect for His preeminence in many ways.

For example, He used the word “*Therefore*” to attach the statement, “*all authority has been given to Me*” with “*go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.*” He is preeminent, therefore...! (Matthew 28:18-19). It is His desire that every knee should bow since His name is above every name... (Philippians 2:9-10; Ephesians 1:21). He desires our obedience (John 14:21).

Christ Deserves It. Many men have desired to be respected as preeminent, but it is only Christ Who deserves it. Paul said His name is preeminent because He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of dying on the cross. And the Father subsequently gave Him the name which is above every name (Philippians 2:8-10).

For this reason, every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to God’s glory (Philippians 2:11). If not for the sacrifice of the Lord we would still be lost in our sins, groping around in darkness, tortured by guilt-ridden consciences and without hope in the world or beyond (Matthew 11:28-30; Ephesians 2:12-13).

Christ Demands It. As far as my recognizing and respecting Christ’s preeminence, Christ desires it, deserves it, and demands it! We must “*Seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God*” (Colossians 3:1). As Christians, we are to “*Serve the Lord Christ*” (Colossians 3:24). It is Jesus Who “*delivers us from the wrath to come*” (1 Thessalonians 1:10). Do I recognize His preeminence when I allow certain things of this world to distract me from my devoted service to Him? It could be things that are not inherently evil, but I have allowed them to interfere. Jesus isn’t a puppet. We can’t merely remove Him from His throne and replace Him as we please. Do we teach our children the right lesson when we allow the Lord to be placed second to important activities and events in their lives?

Jesus died on the cross and God sat Him on His throne so “*that in all things He may have the Preeminence*” (Colossians 1:18).

Michael Pickford
Mpickford3@comcast.net

Loving God

“Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.”

-Deuteronomy 7:9

“But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

-Joshua 22:5

“This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.”

-2 John 1:6

*“Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints!
For the Lord preserves the faithful,
And fully repays the proud person.”*

-Psalm 31:23

“Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.”

-Matthew 22:37-38

“We love Him because He first loved us.”

-1 John 4:19

“But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

-1 John 3:17

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

-1 John 5:3

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me...”

-John 14:21

“If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

-1 John 4:20

*“I love the Lord, because He has heard
My voice and my supplications.”*

-Psalm 116:1

“Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the Lord your God.”

-Joshua 23:11