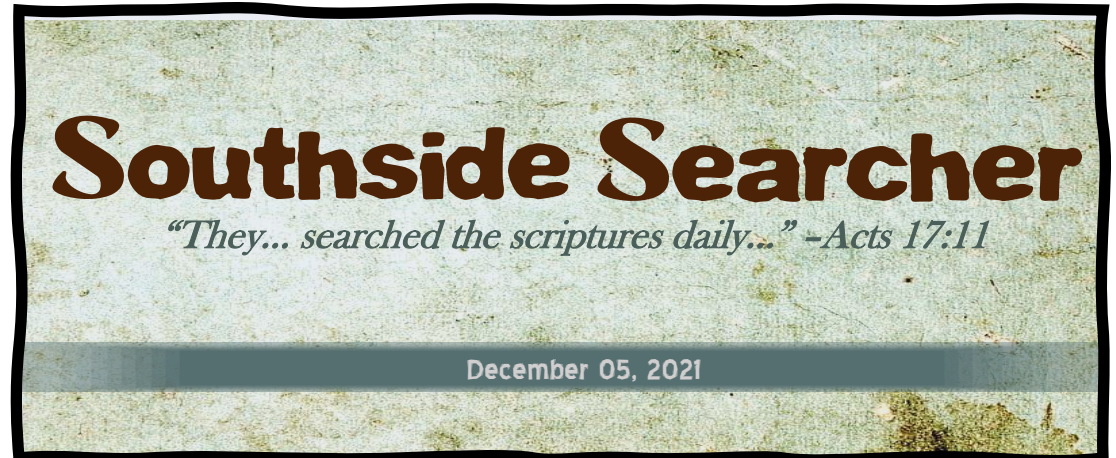


<p><b>DUTY LIST...</b></p> <p><b>SUNDAY MORNING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Announcements.....Michael Pickford</li> <li>➤ Scripture Reading...Kenny Johnson Reading: TBA</li> <li>➤ Song Leader.....Robert Johnson</li> <li>➤ Opening Prayer.....Jeff Isbell</li> <li>➤ Lord's Table: Lead.....Michael Pickford Serve.....Eli Todd</li> <li>➤ Closing Prayer.....Lynn Buttrey</li> </ul> <p><b>SUNDAY EVENING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Song Leader....Kenny Todd</li> <li>➤ Opening Prayer...Michael Pickford</li> <li>➤ Invitation: Michael Pickford</li> <li>➤ Lord's Table...K. Todd, M. Pickford</li> <li>➤ Closing Prayer....Kenny Johnson</li> </ul> <p><b>WEDNESDAY EVENING</b></p>	<p><b>God's Plan of Salvation</b></p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <u>Hear the Gospel:</u> Romans 10:17</li> <li>➤ <u>Believe:</u> Mark 16:16; John 8:24</li> <li>➤ <u>Repent of Sin:</u> Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30</li> <li>➤ <u>Confess Faith:</u> Romans 10:9, 10</li> <li>➤ <u>Be Baptized:</u> Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21</li> <li>➤ <u>Remain Faithful:</u> Rev. 2:10</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Obey Today!</b></p>
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## A Broken Heart

**SOME HAVE HAD THEIR** hearts broken by the one they love. This has led to such tragedies as murder and suicide. And yet it has also produced the loveliest of poems and songs. Other hearts are broken through bereavement.

But there is a heartbreak that is commendable—A broken heart like the man in the parable who cried, “*God, be merciful to me a sinner*” (Luke 18:13). Sin should break our hearts. Our spirit should be troubled when we sin against God. Jesus blessed those who mourn over their sin (Matthew 5:4). He promised them comfort.

The mournful realize their poverty of spirit (Matthew 5:1). They know they have sinned against a holy God, perhaps they have contemplated the consequences, and guilt is crushing their spirit and breaking their heart. Good! Now they have incentive to approach God for forgiveness. “*The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as are crushed in spirit*” (Psalm 34:18).

Jesus promised rest for the souls of those who come to Him (Matthew 11:28-30). But how do we come to Him? Those in Acts chapter two had their hearts cut (broken) by the Gospel of Christ. They desired healing from their sin. They were told, “*repent... and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins*” (Acts 2:37-38). Does time heal all wounds? No. Only obedience to the Gospel will heal the wounds of a heart broken by the crushing blow of sin.

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Southside Searcher, Volume 17, Number 45

# Reactions To A Sermon

**THE SERMON IS THE** one Paul delivered at Mars Hill in Athens, an extremely idolatrous and philosophical city of the first century (Acts 17:16-34). Paul proclaimed to them the true and living God (unknown to them) and the hope of the resurrection (Acts 17:23-24, 31). We are given three different reactions to this sermon...

**Some Ridiculed.** They “*Mocked*” when they heard about the resurrection (vs 32). They jeered at it, made fun of it, and criticized it. Their philosophical background taught them there was no resurrection. But this was no excuse. When confronted with the truth of the Gospel one is obligated to accept it regardless of what they’ve believed throughout life. There are many today who mock at the truths of the Gospel, often while claiming to be followers of Jesus. For example, when hearing the truth about the necessity of baptism for salvation (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21), many mock. Those proclaiming that message have been belittled, made fun of, and sometimes cruelly criticized. How tragic to ridicule the words of the Lord Jesus!

**Some Reflected.** “*We will hear you again on this matter*” (vs 32). At least they were willing to investigate further. It was a strange doctrine to them, one that was challenging and difficult, but they wanted to hear more. It is true that the call of Christ comes with a high price tag. As a Christian, one is open to suffering in various ways—physical persecution, sacrifice of cherished habits and possessions, ridicule and denial from the closest of friends and family (Matthew 5:11-12; 10:34-39; 2 Timothy 3:12). Jesus taught that one should “*count the cost*” (Luke 14:26-28). However, one should not take too long in his reflection and cost counting, and scripture indicates that it doesn’t take much time. Many on this same occasion went ahead and obeyed (vs 34). Three thousand in Acts 2 responded almost immediately, and the Philippian Jailer was baptized in the same hour of the night on which he heard (Acts 16:33).

**Some Received.** “*Some men joined him and believed*” (vs 34). They did not procrastinate as Felix did (Acts 24:22-25). We have no assurance of being alive tomorrow (James 4:13-17). Today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:1-2). If you have not obeyed the Gospel, “*Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins...*” (Acts 22:16).

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# Loving The World

*“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”*  
-1 John 2:15-17

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*  
-Romans 12:1-2

*“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”*  
-James 4:4

*“in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”*  
-Ephesians 2:2-3

*“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*  
-Matthew 6:24

*“for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world...”*  
-2 Timothy 4:10

*“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”*  
-1 John 5:3-4

*“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*  
-John 8:12

*“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”*  
-John 17:14-15