

## SHOULD WE JUDGE?

Michael Pickford

There is a common misunderstanding that we should never judge anyone.

Jesus stated in Matthew 7:1, "Judge not that you be not judged..." In the next few verses Jesus taught that those doing the judging here were guilty of the same sins they were judging others for.

In verse five He actually tells them to judge the sinner, but only after they have removed their own sin (plank in their eye). Jesus condemns hypocritical judging! But Jesus commanded that we "...Judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24).

Righteous judgment is done whenever we judge, not hypocritically or by appearance, but according to the standard of Christ's doctrine.

If we could never judge, preachers would be out of a job. How could I preach against lying without judging those who are liars (Eph 4:25)? How could I preach against stealing without judging those who steal (Eph 4:28)? How could I preach the truth of the Gospel without judging those who preach religious error (Jude 3)?

Should we judge? Yes! But judge righteous judgment. 🔍

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!**

- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 60 Second daily Radio Spot, "Moment of Truth." WGNS 100.5 FM, 101.9 FM, 1450 AM
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Children's Class, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 5:30 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm, Prayer Service, 6 pm



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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

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

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## OBEDIENCE TO GOD

Michael Pickford

God has always expected people to obey Him. "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Consider some things linked to Obedience...

**Life.** Without obedience, there can be no hope of eternal life. Jesus "Became the Author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:8-9). This one verse handily refutes any argument against the necessity of obeying the Lord in order to receive salvation. Jesus said "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). The "kingdom of heaven" here ultimately represents eternal life, and Jesus said we must DO something in order to obtain it – the Father's will.

**Love.** Without loving God, it is very difficult to obey Him properly. In fact, obedience without love is useless (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). As we strive to live our lives in service to God, we find many of His commands very difficult to obey. But if we develop a true love for God, these commands seem much easier to keep. The more we love God, the less burdensome obedience seems. John said "For this

is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). Jesus taught that the one who truly loves Him is the one who displays that love with obedience. "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me..." (John 14:21).

**Legalism.** We have been accused of being legalistic just like the Pharisees of Jesus' day. The Pharisees believed they could earn their salvation by the keeping of the law. Our accusers say that since we teach the necessity of obedience for salvation, we are teaching that we earn our salvation through obedience. Not so! The key word is "Earn." No one can ever earn their salvation. Salvation is clearly by the grace of God (Ephesians 2:9-10). That is, it is a free gift. But we must obey in order to receive it (Hebrews 5:8-9). If Bob gives Jeff One Hundred dollars, Jeff doesn't have the money if Bob wrote him a check. He must do something to get the money – sign and cash the check. He has not earned the money by doing these things, but he will not receive it unless he does them! We do not earn salvation through obedience, but we will not receive it unless we obey! 🔍

[www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)

# REJOICE ALWAYS!

Michael Pickford

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4). “Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation...” (Romans 12:12). These statements are given in command form. We are commanded to rejoice!

To rejoice doesn't necessarily mean to walk around laughing all the time. There's a big difference in rejoicing and giddy foolishness. It's certainly good to laugh when the occasion calls for it. However, there are other occasions which call for different displays of emotion. One would not want to be caught laughing out loud during a funeral service. This would be disrespectful and cold hearted. However, even during those moments of grief, we can and should rejoice. We may be saddened at the loss of a loved one. Our grief may even be more severe because the one who has died was not a Christian.

But, even though our hearts are hurting because of this loss; there is also a great joy which still exists there because of our own relationship with Christ. Joy is not defined as laughter. Joy is something that should always be found within the heart of a

Christian regardless of circumstances. Paul was a man who always rejoiced, yet he was also a man who had constant grief in his heart (Romans 9:2). It is possible! Do you rejoice without ceasing? Over the years, I have come into contact with some Christians who looked and acted as if they had been sentenced to Christianity! They seemed to be depressed and down all of the time. It's almost as if when they were buried in the watery grave of baptism, they were also plunged into an endless procession of grief, depression, pain, and sorrow. I read once about a little girl who said, “That horse must be a Christian, look at how long his face is.” Does this describe you? Do you walk through life looking as if you were weaned on a sour pickle? If so, you need to heed the command given - Rejoice without ceasing! After becoming a Christian, the eunuch “Went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:39). If you find your life clouded over with despair and complaints, perhaps you should sit down and do as the song suggests, “Count your many blessings” (Eph. 1:3). Rejoice without ceasing! 🔍

## “SPARE THE ROD, SPOIL THE CHILD”

The above statement is thought by many to be a quotation from the Bible. I'm not sure of its source, but it is not from the Bible. The sentiment however is biblical, as the Bible speaks a great deal about what we would call “Whippings,” or “Spankings.” Proverbs 22:15 says “*Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.*” Consider also Proverbs 23:13-14; 22:6; 29:15; 19:18; 13:24.



## SERMON NOTES

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

### God Is Love

STUDY DAILY!  
Acts 17:11

Introduction:

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

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

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

#### DUTY LIST...

##### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Kenny Todd
- Bible Reading by.....Chris Meade  
Reading: 1 John 4:7-11
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Lord's Table:  
Lead.....Ben Green  
Serve.....Kenny Johnson  
Serve.....Robert Johnson

##### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Ben Green

##### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Brad Todd

**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!**