



# South Jackson Beacon

Vol X

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No. 47

## Those Privileged to Serve

**Nov 26th - MORNING WORSHIP**  
6 A.M. J. Lewis, J. Smith

**Announcements:** Darrell Cunningham

**Lead Singing:** John Smith  
**Read Scripture:** Paul Hatcher  
**Opening Prayer:** Gaylon Cooper  
**Sermon:** Ray Pack  
**Closing Prayer:** Joseph Johnson

**Communion:**  
J. Venable, L. Merritt, P. Love  
F. Kidder, W. Ferguson, C. Kidder

**Greet:** Stennis & Mary Lewis

**Nov 26th - EVENING WORSHIP**

**Lead Singing:** Marion Thomas  
**Opening Prayer:** Joe Manasco  
**Sermon:** Drew Aldridge (Devo)  
**Closing Prayer:** Paul Hatcher

**Communion:**  
R. Pack, D. Cunningham

**Nov 29th - WED BIBLE STUDY**

**Lead Singing:** Marion Thomas  
**Opening Prayer:** Ray Pack  
**Devotional:** Jeff Lewis  
**Closing Prayer:** Jonah Adams

**Dec 3rd- MORNING WORSHIP**  
6 A.M. R. Pack, G. Cooper

**Announcements:** Gaylon Cooper

**Lead Singing:** John Smith  
**Read Scripture:** Costel Gimphu  
**Opening Prayer:** Joe Venable  
**Sermon:** Ray Pack  
**Closing Prayer:** Marion Thomas

**Communion:**  
K. Ross, A. Vaughn, H. Davis  
E. Anderson, T. Williams, C. Richardson

**Greet:** Billy & Betty Landers

**Dec 3rd - EVENING WORSHIP**

**Lead Singing:** Mike Wages  
**Opening Prayer:** Jeff Lewis  
**Sermon:** Ray Pack  
**Closing Prayer:** Carleton Kidder

**Communion:**  
J. Venable, F. Kidder

**Dec 6th - WED BIBLE STUDY**

**Lead Singing:** Mike Wages  
**Opening Prayer:** Jonah Adams  
**Devotional:** Freeman Kidder  
**Closing Prayer:** Ken Ross

## Weekly Record

6 AM Worship	11
Sun. Morning Bible Study	73
Sunday Morning Worship	112
Sunday Evening Worship	66
Wed. Bible Study	N/A
Contribution	\$ 3660

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## Why Christianity Is So Offensive

Steve Higginbotham

The real reason so many people find Christianity offensive, and why they want nothing to do with it may not be what you think.

I'm convinced the one thing so many people find offensive about Christianity is "LOVE." Yes, "love."

*You see, it's because of love that Christians must be willing to forgive (Matthew 18:21-22). But many people don't want to do that.*  
*It's because of love that Christians must bless and treat their enemies with kindness (Romans 12:20). But many people don't want to do that.*  
*It's because of love that Christians must rid their lives of racism and prejudice (James 2:1,9). But many people don't want to do that.*  
*It's because of love that Christians confront sin and sinners (Proverbs 27:6 ; Ephesians 5:11). But many people don't want to do that.*  
*It's because of love that Christians practice church discipline (1 Corinthians 5:4-5). But many people don't want to do that.*  
*It's because of love that Christians make great monetary sacrifices for the kingdom's sake (Acts 4:32-37). But many people don't want to do that.*  
*It's because of love that Christians give others the benefit of the doubt and don't judge their motives (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). But many people don't want to do that.*  
*It's because of love that Christians commit themselves to absolute allegiance and obedience to all that Jesus commands (John 14:15). But many people don't want to do that.*

Do you see my point? It's not that Christianity is too harsh, too narrow, too judgmental, too irrelevant; it's because Christianity commands "LOVE" and love is hard to obey. That's why Christianity is so offensive to some people. It's because the two greatest commands of Christianity, which undergird all of it, are to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves...and many people just don't want to do that.

Give it some thought.

## Mouse of a Scandal

Austin O'Malley said, "That a mouse of a scandal whisks its foolish tail across the church's floor is not sufficient for clamorous leaping out of its windows." That quote reminds me that not all church problems are equal. Sometimes a "mouse" does indeed scamper across its floors. But then sometimes it is a full-grown rat! The church we see on the pages of the New Testament was comprised of the good, the bad, and the ugly! Some congregations are commended for their faith, love, sincerity, and steadfastness, and some are urgently warned they have strayed dangerously close to a moral/ doctrinal cliff and are in danger of departing from the faith. There is a blend of praise and criticism, commendation and condemnation — often both included in the same letter directed to the same congregation! Where there is faithfulness and fidelity in doctrine and deed, it is commended, but unfaithfulness to inspired teaching is rebuked with a call to repent and straighten it out. What is absent in the writing and preaching of the apostles and inspired writers of the first century is the extremism and fanaticism we sometimes see and hear in pews and pulpits and publications today. New Testament writers and preachers never advised that a "mouse of a scandal" was sufficient to send church members into a "clamorous leaping out of the windows." Even when problems were bigger (Corinth), directives and teaching were aimed at solving the problems and saving the congregation, not severing or slicing it to pieces. The truth was spoken, in love.

Jesus' message to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7 reveals a church where there was good, bad, and ugly. The Lord praised the church for being a hard working, persevering, clean-living, evil-opposing, Bible believing, doctrinally sound, false-doctrine-hating church that had "tested those who say they are apostles, and have found them liars" (vs 2-3). This congregation had many good points, and Jesus commended every one of them. If we want Jesus' commendation today, members must work hard, be pure, oppose evil, seek truth, and continue in the apostles' doctrine and teaching. But there was also some bad in the church at Ephesus. In vs 4 the Lord pointed out a most serious problem: "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love." We don't have space to discuss it here, but the bad in the church was so bad it was downright ugly. How bad and how ugly? Bad and ugly enough that in verse 5 the Lord threatened to "come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent." The Lord commended the good in this church. He didn't see her as all bad because there was some bad. But neither did He overlook the bad and the ugly. A mouse scampering across the floor is one thing. An infestation of gopher rats is another. We should never ignore even a mouse of a scandal in the church, doctrinally or morally. But we should recognize not all problems are equal. Our challenge is to know whether a member / congregation needs a band-aid, heart surgery, or even amputation. Is the problem "a mouse of a scandal" or a major threat to the church's health and standing with God? We must make sure our response to a mouse does not create more clamor than the mouse itself. We ought to work to get rid of a mouse, but we ought not to burn down the house to do it. Will you think and pray about it?

*Dan Gulley*

### **Sunday Sermons**

AM - Mature Christian Living - The Courage - Mark 15:43  
- Ray Pack  
PM - Singing Night

## Congregational News and Notes

### Prayer Requested

#### Members

Harold and Doris Davis,  
Ron and Nadine McDonald,  
James Eddleman, Rachel Epperson,  
Ted Lingren, Billy Landers,  
Fredie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,  
Iva Hopper, Tommye Siegler,  
Freeman Kidder, Doug Crouse,  
Margie Montgomery, Tom Crow,  
Margie Whitehead, Helen Avent,  
Louise Buck, Gwen Smith,  
Jorita Richardson, Barbara Ray,  
Jerry Crabb, Jeanette Morris,  
Mary Bolen, Shirley Puckett  
Gaylon & Betty Cooper,  
Roberta Donaldson

#### Friends & Family:

Horace Yearwood, Tim Boyd,  
Al Stewart, Ruth Cox,  
Judy Jennings, Raymond Cagle,  
Beverly Martindale, Rosie Love,  
Bethany Tims, Nancy Anderson,  
Bill and Gladys Gowan,  
Loretta Stanfill, John Sawyer,  
Jerry Yarbrough, Rick Barnett,  
Jere Jennings

#### Cards to Send

Kim Ross  
41 Denim Cove  
Jackson, TN 38305

Gwen Smith  
495 Medon-Malesus Road  
Medon, TN 38356

### Happenings South Jackson

#### Today

Forrest Cove Devotional at 2:30

#### 12/8

Adult Holiday Party  
See Bulletin Board for More  
information

#### Area Events

#### 12/1

Freed Hardeman University Benefit  
Dinner

#### Pantry Item

Canned Black Eye Peas

#### Fruit Baskets

We will meet at 8:30 am on  
December 2nd to assemble the fruit  
baskets.

Remember that all widows and  
widowers automatically receive a fruit  
basket.

If there are others who you think  
would appreciate a fruit basket,  
please turn their name in to Ray Pack  
by November 29th.