

Those Privileged to Serve

Dec 4th - MORNING WORSHIP

6 A.M. R. Pack, G. Cooper

Announcements: Mike Wages

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture: Carleton Kidder

Opening Prayer: Gaylon Cooper

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Freeman Kidder

Communion:

B. Richardson, P. Love, J. Orr

J. Johnson, C. Richardson, J. Cogdell

Greet: Billy & Betty Landers

Nursery Att: A.M. Debi Helton

P.M. Carolyn Callis

Dec 4th - EVENING WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer: Darrell Cunningham

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Jonah Adams

Communion:

Joe Venable, Ken Ross

Dec 7th - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer: Marion Thomas

Invitation: Walt Ferguson

Closing Prayer: Kenneth Moody

Dec 11th - MORNING WORSHIP

6 A.M. M. Wages, J. Smith

Announcements: Mike Wages

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture: Costel Gimphu

Opening Prayer: Freeman Kidder

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion:

B. Richardson, P. Love, J. Orr

J. Johnson, C. Richardson, J. Cogdell

Greet: Darrell & Baleri Cunningham

Nursery Att: A.M. Carlet James

P.M. Sissy Orr

Dec 11th - EVENING WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Jeff Lewis

Opening Prayer: Eddie Anderson

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Kenneth Moody

Communion:

Joe Venable, Ken Ross

Dec 14th - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Jeff Lewis

Opening Prayer: Joe Venable

Invitation: Tyler Naes

Closing Prayer: Jonah Adams

Weekly Record

6 a.m. Worship	8
Sun. Morning Bible Study	88
Sunday Morning Worship	148
Sunday Evening Worship	74
Wed. Bible Study	91
Contribution	\$ 3930

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The Salvation Army To Give Or Not To Give

(Nearly every year, around this time of the year, I am inevitably asked what my opinion is regarding giving to the Salvation Army. Here are my thoughts below).

I wish you well as you brave the cold winter weather, the agitated shoppers, and the long lines at the check-out stands. Along with these standards for the holiday season has arisen another: donations to the Salvation Army. "Soldiers" in the Salvation Army will be standing at the entrance of nearly every shopping area, ringing a bell, soliciting donations to help the needy.



There is no telling how many millions of dollars are gathered by this organization every year through this avenue of fund raising. It appeals to our sense of benevolence at a time when we are feeling particularly benevolent. Surely there would be no harm in making donations to these tireless workers who are willing to endure the cold winds of December, or is there?

The Salvation Army was founded by William Booth, a Methodist preacher, in 1865. Booth believed that God had called him to minister to the outcast. His philosophy was "Soup, Soap, and Salvation, believing that a person who is hungry or in need of a bath would not be interested in the gospel. In the beginning, Booth intended for the people he reached with the gospel to return to their home churches, but soon found they were unwelcome in their home churches, or unwilling to return to them. Therefore, in 1878, Booth and his wife Catherine, organized the "Salvation Army" as a new church denomination with the Protestant doctrine of Methodism. Booth designated himself as General, his best leaders as lieutenants, captains, and majors, and faithful converts became soldiers.

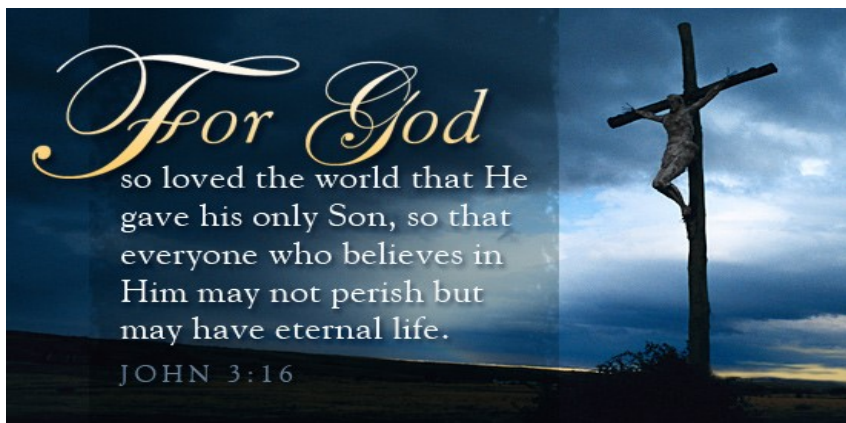
Thus, the Salvation Army differs from other benevolent organizations such as "The Red Cross," or "The American Heart Association," in that it is a church, a religious denomination. As a religious denomination, it teaches a perverted plan of salvation by "faith alone." Like all religious denominations, the Salvation Army does some good. But does the fact that the Salvation Army does some good, mean that we should support them? Do the ends justify the means?

Listen to the apostle Paul as he wrote to the Christians at Ephesus..."And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them" (Ephesians 5:11). Should a Christian, a member of the church that Jesus purchased with His own blood, support a man made religious body, which rivals the Lord's church? Should we support by our donations a false religious organization that teaches a false plan of salvation, which if followed, will cause people to miss out on Heaven? Should a Christian support a denomination in their good deeds so that the denomination receives the praise of men, rather than the true church that Jesus built?

Brethren, don't loose sight of this important point. An organization that feeds the stomach but starves the spirit is not truly helpful. I certainly don't question their sincerity or their willingness to help the poor, but they have a zeal for God that is not according to knowledge (Romans 10:2). Instead of doing our benevolence through a false, man-made, religious denomination, why don't we maintain a benevolent spirit, giving as we are prospered to the church, and let Christ be glorified through His church (Ephesians 3:21).

As the little bell is rung in your direction this holiday season, why don't you join me in politely saying, "I do my benevolent work through my local church."

*Steve Higginbotham
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Congregational News and Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Harold and Doris Davis,
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Jean Harber, Rachel Epperson,
Louise Hopper, Teresa Yearwood,
Ted Lingren, Fredie Stewart,
Cindy Kidder, Iva Hopper,
Bill and Gladys Gowan,
Teriyaki Anderson, Tom Crow

Friends & Family:

Horace Yearwood, Loretta Stanfill,
Sammy Snead, Tim Boyd,
Teresa Carpenter, Al Stewart,
Hilda Beats

Sympathy Extended

We extend our deepest sympathy to Rachel Epperson and Jane Graves on the passing of their brother Ernest Grimes. Services will be held in Oklahoma.

Cards to Send This Week

Bobbie Holder
8 Rebel Cove
Jackson, TN 38301

Sandra Jordan
37 Southside Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Jewel Spinks
502 Driftwood Drive
Jackson Gap, AL 36861
(This is Jo Merritt's sister)

Happenings

South Jackson

12/8

Adult Holiday Party
6:30 PM

12/11

5th Grade and Under Holiday Party
3:30 PM

12/18

Teen Holiday Party

Pantry Item

Whole Kernel Corn

Directory Picture and Updates

We would like to take pictures for new members, along with anyone else who wants to change theirs on December 4th and 11th.

Also if you have any changes that need to be made, just write it down and give to Ray.

Special Thanks

Thanks to all who came and assembled and delivered the fruit baskets for the our widows, widowers and shut ins.