

## Those Privileged to Serve

### Dec 17th- MORNING WORSHIP

6 A.M. J. Lewis, J. Smith

**Announcements:** Gaylon Cooper

**Lead Singing:** Mike Wages

**Read Scripture:** Marion Thomas

**Opening Prayer:** Darrell Cunningham

**Sermon:** Ray Pack

**Closing Prayer:** Carleton Kidder

#### Communion:

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

**Greet:** Freeman & Shelia Kidder

### Dec 17th - EVENING WORSHIP

**Lead Singing:** Paul Hatcher

**Opening Prayer:** Ken Ross

**Sermon:** Ray Pack

**Closing Prayer:** Freeman Kidder

#### Communion:

J. Venable, F. Kidder

### Dec 20th - WED BIBLE STUDY

**Lead Singing:** Paul Hatcher

**Opening Prayer:** Freeman Kidder

**Devotional:** Walt Ferguson

**Closing Prayer:** Gaylon Cooper

### Dec 24th- MORNING WORSHIP

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

**Announcements:** Gaylon Cooper

**Lead Singing:** John Smith

**Read Scripture:** Paul Hatcher

**Opening Prayer:** Joseph Johnson

**Sermon:** Ray Pack

**Closing Prayer:** Mike Wages

#### Communion:

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

**Greet:** Billy & Betty Landers

### Dec 24th - EVENING WORSHIP

**Lead Singing:** Jeff Lewis

**Opening Prayer:** Bobby Richardson

**Sermon:** Ray Pack

**Closing Prayer:** James Eddleman

#### Communion:

J. Venable, F. Kidder

### Dec 27th - WED BIBLE STUDY

**Lead Singing:** Jeff Lewis

**Opening Prayer:** Ray Pack

**Devotional:** Darrell Cunningham

**Closing Prayer:** Marion Thomas

### Weekly Record

6 AM Worship	12
Sun. Morning Bible Study	76
Sunday Morning Worship	114
Sunday Evening Worship	69
Wed. Bible Study	93
Contribution	\$ 3749

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# South Jackson Beacon

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No. 50

## A Life Characterized by Confession

J. W. McGarvey said, "Among all the conditions of pardon and eternal life, [repentance] is the most difficult to bring about" (Chapel Talks 71). Amending that thought, I offer that confession is the most difficult to sustain. In that vein of thought, Horace Mann suggested, "It is more difficult, and it calls for higher energies

of soul, to live a martyr than to die one." Before one becomes a Christian, he must confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (Romans 10:10). To fail to confess Jesus as Christ is to deny Him (John 12:42-43). One cannot become a Christian in a state of denying that Jesus is the Christ. However, one's confession of Jesus as Christ does not end with the words, "I believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." One must continue to confess Jesus on a daily basis by the life that one lives. In that regard, a life of confession entails certain things.

First, a life of confession means denying selfish attitudes and interests. Confession forces us to conquer the first enemy that presents itself as a challenge to confessing Christ as Lord – one's self. John 12:42-43 records the fact that some of the chief rulers would not confess Jesus. Verse forty-three tells us why: "because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." One must deny self and the concerns of the self (such as the praise of men), if one is to truly begin to confess Christ. This self-denial must then continue as one's manner of life—a habit that perpetually presents itself in each moment. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). With this thought in mind, the writer of the book of Hebrews said, "let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not" (Hebrews 10:23).



Second, a life of confession means walking in the steps of Christ Jesus. There is a path that we must follow if we are to maintain a life of confession. The apostle John called it "walking in the light" (1 John 1:7). The apostle Paul exhorted, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him" (Colossians 2:6). The apostle Peter said, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Peter 2:21). Walking in the steps of another is not necessarily simple; it takes effort, concentration, discernment, and steadfastness. A boundary is implied. One must actually see and know where those steps lie and the path that they take. To make a step in a different direction or outside of the steps of Christ is not to walk in His steps. When we so walk so as to follow his steps, we become His imitators, and exemplify Him in our life (1 Corinthians 11:1). Such a walk naturally confesses the Lord of such a life.

Third, a life of confession means promoting the teachings of Christ Jesus. Standing before the Sanhedrin counsel, the apostle Peter said, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). The apostle Paul wrote, "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16). And of the Christians enduring persecution at the hand of Saul, Luke recorded, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). A Christian cannot continue to confess Christ without promoting the teachings of Christ. It is not enough merely to deny self and be a good example. One must verbally profess to others the truths of the gospel message. There are many methods to accomplish this. What is clear, however, is that others cannot become Christians without verbal teaching (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). Christianity is a taught religion. Part of the Christian's confession is to teach.

No doubt many other things could be said about a life of confession. This issue of the Christian Worker focuses upon confession as an essential element in God's plan for man's salvation. As you read through these articles, it is our prayer that you will come to see the essentiality of this teaching in God's plan. May God bless you as you truly seek to confess Him, both now and perpetually.

*Kevin Cauley  
New Boston Church of Christ  
New Boston, Texas*

### **Sunday Sermons**

AM - Mature Christian Living - Confession - Acts 8:35-39  
PM - Mature Christian Living - Course - 2 Timothy 4:6-8

## **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, Roberta Donaldson  
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,

#### **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, Diane Hubbard

#### **Cards to Send**

Rachel Epperson  
37 Southside Drive  
Jackson, TN 38301

Lana Gimphu  
32 Southside Drive  
Jackson, TN, 38301

Joe & Faye Venable  
1065 Forrest  
Henderson, TN 38340

### **Happenings South Jackson**

#### **Today**

Children's Holiday Party  
3:30-4:30 PM

#### **Pantry Item**

Vienna Sausage

#### **Thank You Cards**

Several Thank You cards are posted on the bulletin board.

#### **Invitation Responses**

Brent Cable was baptized on December 4th.

Freida Phifer asked for prayers for forsaking the assembly and to be a better example.

Freddie Callis asked for prayers for forsaking the assembly and for help to get to heaven.

