



# SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVIII

January 28, 2024

No. 4

## ***Whose Reality Will We Accept?*** ***Kevin Cauley***

Humans have a way of trying to impose their own beliefs on the world and seeking to change it to their own desires. Much of these efforts are denials of what is really real. It is a sure path for failure. What is really real? Ultimately, God is what is real, and when we fight reality, we are fighting Him. Reality isn't what we want it to be. It is what God wants it to be. Disappointment happens when our expectations don't match reality. We become disillusioned and may even fall into despair. Some just decide it isn't worth it to stick around anymore. There is a better way.

Instead of seeking to change the world to match our desires, we should change ourselves to match God's world. This is God's message to us in the Bible. Sin is not just "moral" failure; it is a failure of perspective on our place in God's creation. That's what Paul is seeking to get across in Romans 1:21: "because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

What happens when the heart is darkened? We try to change reality to conform to our desires instead of conforming our desires to reality. "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 12:2). When we transform ourselves to God's will, we prove God's good, acceptable, and perfect will. That is, we show it, in our lives, to be true. It's not that God's will is false if we don't do this, rather, our own lives are.

# ***Special Treasure***

## ***Kevin Cauley***

When God brought the children of Israel out of bondage, He instructed Moses to tell them this: “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine” (Exodus 19:5). special treasure

God intended for Israel to have a special relationship with Him beyond that of all the other nations. The people, however, rebelled, and did not fulfill God’s desires for them to be this special people (Jeremiah 31:31-34). So, God made a New Covenant through His Son, Jesus. In this covenant, God has reaffirmed His desire to have a special relationship. Titus 2:14 states, “[Jesus] gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” Peter affirms that message in 1 Peter 2:9, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” What God could not accomplish through the physical nation of Israel, He accomplishes through the spiritual nation of Israel, the church.

The word for “special” has the connotation of keeping something around as a treasure. I have a small “treasure box” in my bedroom in which I keep mementos from special occasions in my life. They are not valuable to anyone else, but to me they are priceless because of what they mean to me. They are my special treasures. That is a limited illustration because people are so much more valuable than things. God is saying, “I value you above everything else because of what you mean to me.” Do we see ourselves as that special people?

# *Congregational News & Notes*

## **Prayer Requested**

### **Members**

Mary Bolen, Luther Merritt  
Ron and Nadine McDonald,  
Fredie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,  
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,  
Doug Crouse, Norma Cogdell  
Margie Montgomery, Sue Harris,  
Betty Mosely, Teriyaki Anderson  
James Morris, Freeman Kidder,  
Andy Vaughn, Pearl Johnson,  
Ken & Paula Wadley, Judy Ellis  
Phillip Mulins, Jerry Crabb,  
Karen Chance, Mary Lewis  
Gaylon & Betty Cooper

### **Friends & Family**

Horace Yearwood, Shirley Bolin,  
Beverly Martindale,  
Allen Thompson, Glenn Lovell,  
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,  
Brandi Rogers, Marilyn Ferrell,  
Jeanette Manley, Corey Allen  
Kenton Lancaster,  
Justin Puckett, Ruby Malone,  
Margaret Davis

### **Today's Sermons**

AM - Salvation - Belief  
John 3:16

PM - Singing Night

## **Happenings**

### **South Jackson**

#### **Today**

Ladie's Meeting  
following AM Service

#### **February 4-8**

Freed-Hardeman Lesctureship  
For more information visit here:  
[fhu.edu/lectureship](http://fhu.edu/lectureship)

### **Cards to Send**

Sheila Greer  
5 Herron Street  
Jackson, TN 38301

Carleton & Cindy Kidder  
4995 Highway 45 South  
Finger, TN 38334

### **Weekly Record**

6 AM	5
Bible Class	39/7
AM Worship	57/23
PM Worship	34/24
Wed Bible Study	45/9
Contribution	2214
Budget	4014

# Those Privileged to Serve

## Jan 28 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - M. Wages, J. Smith

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Van McConnell

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Jonathan Orr

Communion: Mike Wages

Contribution:

Paul Hatcher

## Feb 4 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, R. Clouse

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Costel Ghimpu

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Freeman Kidder

Communion: Greg Long

Contribution:

Jerry Butcher

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Ken Ross

Sermon: Singing Night

Closing Prayer: Tommy Williams

Communion: Mike Wages

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Joey Ferrell

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion: Mike Wages

## Jan 31 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Devo - Marion Thomas

## Feb 7 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Ray Pack

Devo - Mike Wages

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Minister: Ray Pack

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(731) 437-9501

## Service Times

Early Worship	6:00 AM
Gospel of Christ - Fox 16	9:30 AM
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM