



# ***SOUTH JACKSON BEACON***

Vol XVI

April 30, 2023

No. 18

## ***It Takes Conscious Effort to Enter Heaven***

The simplest life and the one often lived with the least conflict is one where you just drift along, make few decisions and just take life as it comes. The old fashioned hobo and the modern man living under the bridge have taken this course in their lives.

There is a striking parallel to this attitude today. It is found in our society among those who are more “successful” in the financial and physical side of their lives. They have simply adopted the “drifter’s attitude” in the spiritual side of life. An underlying reason for this is that it takes a conscious decision and much effort to live on a higher spiritual plateau than those around you.

There are so many illustrations of this truth. Is it easier to gossip or to refrain from it? Is it easier to respond harshly to others’ words or to let your lips be ruled by the law of kindness (Prov. 31:26)? Is it easier to use His holy name in a profane way or to let His name be hallowed, not just in prayer, but daily speech (Matt. 6:9)? Is it easier to use the “f-word” or the “s-word,” especially when angry, than to let your speech always be with “grace, seasoned with salt” (Col. 4:6)? Is it easier to curse those who curse you than it is to bless them (Matt. 5:44)?

Look at the contrast of the words and phrases found in these two lists: (1) “bitterness, wrath, anger, loud quarreling, evil speaking . . . malice. . .” and (2) “...kind one to another,

tenderhearted, forgiving one another” (Eph. 4:31-32). The first list characterizes those who just follow the crowd and drift along. The second list manifests a life where one has consciously decided to live differently.

The two attitudes are found in the rearing of children—it is far easier to ignore wrong behavior than to have family rules. It is found in worshiping God—it takes conscious effort to stay focused in Bible study, singing, praying and having an experience that changes one’s heart than it does just to “go to church every Sunday.” It is found in talking to others with sins in their lives about the importance of putting Christ first. It is far easier to be liked by others and to be their “friend” than to “become their enemy by telling them the truth” (Gal. 4:16).

This transformation of attitude is called repentance. One does not just repent once and then is baptized. True repentance is to promise to give one’s life to the Lord. Repentance is commanded, not just of sinners, but of Christians also. Have you forgotten the promises you made when you became His son? Do you need to repent today?

*Dan Jenkins  
Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ  
West Palm Beach, FL*

### **Today’s Sermons**

AM - Mike Wages Speaking

PM - Purity in Christ  
2 Timothy 3:1-15  
Tyler Waugh  
FHU Student

# ***Congregational News & Notes***

## **Prayer Requested**

### **Members**

Harold Davis, Mary Bolen  
Ron and Nadine McDonald,  
Sandra Jordan, Fredie Stewart,  
Cindy Kidder, Garmelia Ellis,  
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  
Charles & Ruby Malone,  
Phillip Mulins, Gordon Love,  
Jerry Crabb, Karen Chance,  
Mary Lewis, Harrial Davis

### **Friends & Family**

Horace Yearwood, Helen Morris  
Beverly Martindale,  
Allen Thompson  
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,  
Shirley Bolin, Brandi Rogers,  
Jeanette Manley, Corey Allen  
Kenton Lancaster, Glenn Lovell,  
Marilyn Ferrell, Justin Puckett  
Ramona Thurston, April Richey  
David Briley, Chris Buford

### **Pantry Item**

Peanut Butter

## **Happenings**

### **South Jackson**

#### **Today**

Fifth Sunday Fellowship Meal  
Afternoon service will be at 1:30  
PM

#### **Cards to Send**

Roberta Donaldson  
123 Old Pinson Road  
Jackson, TN 38301

Lana Gimphu  
32 Southside Drive  
Jackson, TN 38301

#### **Weekly Record**

6 AM	5
Bible Class	51/9
AM Worship	107/15
PM Worship	51/0
Wed Bible Study	52/6
Contribution	3185

#### **Sentence Sermons**

If you are not as close to God  
as you once were, you need not  
wonder who it is who moved.

It is better to look ahead and  
prepare than to look back and  
regret.

# Those Privileged to Serve

## Apr 30 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - M. Wages, J. Smith

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Read Scripture:

Jeff Bliss

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Mike Wages

Closing Prayer: Freeman Kidder

Communion: Paul Hatcher

Contribution:

Charlie Richardson

## May 7 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, J. Butcher

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Costel Gimphu

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion: Greg Long

Contribution:

Paul Hatcher

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer: Mike Wages

Sermon: FHU Student

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion: Ray Pack

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer: Ken Ross

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Joe Venable

Communion: Greg Long

## May 3 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devo - Ray Pack

## May 10 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Ray Pack

Devo - Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Medon, TN

(731) 424-9721

Minister: Ray Pack

rpack119@gmail.com

(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