



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVI

May 21, 2023

No. 21

Why Do Some Fail to Enter the Gate of Heaven?

The gate of heaven is very attractive and appealing because of where it leads. As of Abraham and those of old, we are all travelers going from time to eternity. But, before entering a road, we should be sure it leads to our desired destination because many miss the right road and instead travel the road that seems right. This is a terrible tragedy but as Solomon said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). And, many are not willing to pay the price of the road that is narrow and filled with obstacles (Matt. 7:13-14). Instead, they will follow the crooked road yet at the same time, they also want that crooked road, that is made with flowery beds of ease, to also carry them off to heaven.

You know, some have no burning desire to go there. Some by their practice, as in the days of Jeremiah were, ". . . defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods." Seeking other gods of whatever will not get one to heaven. However, the Lord said, "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart" (Psa. 119:1-2). We must have a pure heart if we are to see God (Matt. 5:8).

Sadly, some just want to have a fire escape to heaven, just in case they need it. Instead of seeking God with the heart, they do not strive at all. They do not strain every nerve as an athlete does in a contest (2 Tim. 2:5). Instead, many are more interested in other things, or other people, like Peter. It is ironic how people can become so focused on Peter or other people, that they forget Jesus. It was said before when, "Peter seeing him

saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. (Jn. 21:21-22). Like the man in the text of Lk. 13:22-28 wanted to know if many were saved, we too need to make sure that we are doing what we must to be saved.

The only problem is that many are not seeking and striving diligently (Lk. 15:3-9). They are not seeking until they find (Lk. 15:8-10), they are not seeking diligently until they find (Lk. 15:11). They do not see the importance and they fail because they do not make sufficient preparation (Matt. 25:1-13). Instead, they procrastinate, they put it off, they wait too late. Perhaps, on their deathbed, terminally ill and unable to function well, they want to turn their life over to God and start obeying. But God said, "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:" (Prov. 1:24-28).

There will be a lot of disappointed people at the wondrous gate (Matt. 7:21-23). Are you willing to pay the price to do His will? You know, the tragedy of all tragedies would be to hear the judge of the world say to you, your husband, your wife, your son or daughter, "depart from me to walk the burning soil of eternal damnation forever and forever." We don't have to hear this. Let us be prepared. Let us walk strait and encourage others to do the same because none of us have to fail to enter the gate of Heaven. It is there waiting for us to enter in and I pray that we will all be there together.

*Robert Notgrass
Lubeck Church of Christ
Washington, WV*

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, 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

New Member Address

Louie and Fe Leroux
287 Deep Gap Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Happenings

South Jackson

Today

Men's Business Meeting
following AM Service

Cards to Send

Eddie Anderson
225 Deerfield Loop
Henderson, TN 38340

Mary Bolen
802 O'Neal Lane
Henderson, TN 38340

Weekly Record

6 AM	7
Bible Class	56/2
AM Worship	107/11
PM Worship	52/13
Wed Bible Study	49/2
Contribution	3249

Pantry Item

Jello

Today's Sermons

AM - Obstacles To Faith
Matthew 15:29-16:12

PM - Ancient Warnings for
Modern Man
Psalm 19:9-11

Those Privileged to Serve

May 21 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - M. Wages, J. Smith

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Jeff Bliss

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venavle

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Freeman Kidder

Communion: Mike Wages

Contribution:

Jonathan Orr

May 28 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, J. Butcher

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Costel Gimphu

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carelton Kidder

Communion: Paul Hatcher

Contribution:

Charlie Richardson

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer: Ken Ross

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Greg Long

Communion: Paul Hatcher

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer: Joe Venable

Sermon: Singing Night

Closing Prayer: Greg Long

Communion: Paul Hatcher

May 24 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Devo - Ray Pack

May 31 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devo - Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Medon, TN

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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