



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XV

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No.33

Pure in Heart

In 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 we read some of the most beautiful words ever written about the unity and purpose of the church. Paul says in verse four, "But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God..." He then presents a beautiful juxtaposition between circumstances and attitudes of the Christian walk. One of the things he specifically states here is the purity of the Christian life (v 6). In chapter eleven he then warns the brethren about the real possibility of their being led astray from the "simplicity and the purity that is toward Christ" (v 3; ASV) just as Eve had been.

When writing to Timothy the Apostle used the same word he used in the Corinthian letter to instruct Timothy how he should live. He penned, "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). Additionally he instructed Timothy to treat "older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity" (1 Timothy 5:2).

Interestingly Paul is writing this letter so that Timothy might know how he should "behave" himself in the church (1 Timothy 3:15). So when considered in association with the instructions to the Corinthians we see that there is an unequivocal connection between the individuals personal purity and the churches purity. In other words, we have heard it said, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link," well the church is only as pure as the individual purity of its members.

How then do we maintain purity in our lives? Let us look to Jesus' statement about the greatest command to answer this question. In Mark 12:30 Jesus said, "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment." You maintain purity when you love God...

With all your heart: “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...” (Proverbs 23:7). We must keep our hearts pure!

With all your soul: “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:20). We must keep our souls pure (1 John 1:7)!

With all your mind: “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things” (Philippians 4:8). We must keep our minds pure!

With all your strength: “Flee fornication...” (1 Corinthians 6:18). “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22). With every fiber of our being we must keep ourselves pure! “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me” (Psalm 101:3).

But also note with me that there is a connection between purity and cleansing. In Titus 1:15 Paul writes, “To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.” The Greek word here translated “pure” means clean, unsoiled, clean from guilt, guiltless, innocent, sincere, upright, virtuous, void of evil, clean ceremonially and morally.

One cannot walk in the light and be continually cleansed (purified) by the blood of Christ until he is first washed in the blood of the Lamb! If you have never come to Jesus for the cleansing power of His blood, you must if you hope to be with Him in eternity. This is why Paul used the same word Jesus used in Matthew 5:8 when He said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

*Tim Dooley
New Albany Church of Christ
New Albany, MS*

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,
Clara Williams, Jane Graves
Charles & Ruby Malone,
Jeff Bliss

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Helen Morris
Beverly Martindale,
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Jeffrey Smith, Betty Turner,
Shirley Bolin, Brandi Rogers,
Jeanette Manley, Wayne Warren
Kenton Lancaster,
Marilyn Ferrell,
Ramona Thurston,
Justin Puckett

Sunday Sermon's

AM - The Peacemakers
Matthew 5:9
PM - While Waiting on the Lord
Psalm 28

Happenings

South Jackson

Dorcas class will start again on
September 13th. See Ray to
get a study guide for the class.
Class starts at 10 AM.

Area Events

Several are posted on the
bulletin Board

Cards to Send

Jeff Bliss
190 Miffilion Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Philip Love
3324 Riverside Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	8
Bible Class	49/0
AM Worship	87/0
PM Worship	53/0
Wed Bible Study	53/0
Contribution	5187

Pantry Item

Instant Potatoes

Those Privileged to Serve

Aug 14 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, G. Cooper

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Carleton Kidder

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Paul Hatcher

Communion: Ken Ross

Contribution:

Jerry Butcher

Aug 21 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Clouse, J. Smith

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Charlie Richardson

Opening Prayer:

Freeman Kidder

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Jonathan Orr

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Ken Ross

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Marion Thomas

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion: Mike Wages

Aug 17 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Ray Pack

Devotional: Mike Wages

Aug 17 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Marion Thomas

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devotional: Ray Pack

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
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM