



# SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVI

November 5, 2023

No. 45

## ***A World of Distractions*** ***Kevin Cauley***

We live in a world of distractions. Cell phones, television, romance novels, fantasy movies, electronic games, online videos, and many other diversions frequently shift our attention from where our focus should be. To be fair, not all distraction is bad. Sometimes we need distraction to rest our bodies, minds, and spirits from periods of intense work. Distractions may be unrelated to entertainment. We can be distracted by problems: at work, at home, financially, emotionally, physically. squirrel distraction

Distractions are problematic when they interrupt, delay, or prevent what is important; when we substitute the distraction for what is real; or when we cease focusing on what we need to be concerned about immediately. When we are driving, distractions are dangerous and deadly. When we are working, distractions create loss of productivity, delays in production schedules, and decreased income. When we are worshipping, distractions result in formalism, pharisaism, and heartlessness toward God (Matthew 15:9), which is not what Jesus wants.

How do we manage our distractions? First, we must have the right values. When we value the wrong things, we will be lured by distractions to do the wrong thing. Right values come from God's word (Matthew 4:4). Prioritizing these values will reduce distractions (Matthew 6:33). Second, we must focus on others instead of self (Philippians 2:1-4). When we are just trying to entertain self, distractions become the main focus. Investing time in other people means we are not just thinking about self. Third, we need self-control and discipline (1 Corinthians 9:27). When we cannot control our behavior, we pursue distraction. When we have no discipline, distractions take over. Finally, we must spend time in Bible study and prayer (1 Thess.5:16-22). These daily activities will help us in all of the above.

# ***The Lord Knows the Nature of our Hearts***

***Tim Dooley***

The old saying goes, “You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can’t fool all the people all the time.” We are often very good at putting on a facade and fooling others, but we need to remember that we cannot and will not fool God. “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7). And be sure “your sins will find you out” (Numbers 32:23). The saddest thing is that some have fooled themselves into thinking their hearts are right with God when God knows the true nature of our hearts.

While King Saul ignored the true causes of his troubles, God saw everything clearly. So many of us need to do some serious introspection and consider the true nature of our hearts in humility and fear. Only when we clearly see our hearts as God sees them can we begin to understand God’s will for us.

As Saul pursues David in an attempt to kill him, David is afforded an opportunity to kill Saul in a cave. Yet, even though he is encouraged to do so by his men, David refuses to “put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD’S anointed” (1 Samuel 24:10).

An important spiritual application for us to remember is that Jesus declares those who are not with Him, are against Him (Matthew 12:30). In other words; those who are not faithfully serving the Lord are putting forth their hands against the Lord’s anointed. The Lord knows our hearts and who is on the Lord’s side. Are you faithful?

# ***Congregational News & Notes***

## **Prayer Requested**

### **Members**

Harold Davis, Mary Bolen  
Ron and Nadine McDonald,  
Sandra Epperson, Helen Morris  
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,  
Luther Merritt, David Briley,  
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 - No Room in the Inn  
Luke 2:7

PM - Jesus, the True Vine  
John 15:1-4

## **Happenings**

### **South Jackson**

### **December 31**

5th Sunday Fellowship Meal  
Follows AM Service  
PM Worship is at 1:30 PM

### **Cards to Send**

Jerry Crabb  
530 North Church Street  
Jackson, TN 38301

Andy Vaughn  
87 Michelle Lane  
Jackson, TN 38301

### **Weekly Record**

6 AM	4
Bible Class	42/9
AM Worship	76/19
PM Worship	41/9
Wed Bible Study	49/16
Contribution	2371

### **December 31st Speakers**

AM - Joe Venable  
PM - Special Song Service

### **Pantry Item**

Dry Pinto Beans

# Those Privileged to Serve

## Nov 5 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R.Pack, J. Smith

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Costel Ghimpu

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Paul Hatcher

Communion: Mike Wages

Contribution:

Jerry Butcher

## Nov 12 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, R. Clouse

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jonathan Orr

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Jeff Bliss

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse

Communion: Mike Wages

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Greg Long

Communion: Joe Venable

## Nov 8 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Devo - Ray Pack

## Nov 8 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Ken Ross

Devo - Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

845 Highway 18

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