



# **SOUTH JACKSON BEACON**

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## ***Knock and the Door Shall Be Opened***

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus had quite a bit to say about the goodness of God and God's willingness to provide for His children. Jesus spoke of God's love, reminding us that God sends blessings on both good and bad alike (Matthew 5:45). He urged His followers not to engage in materialistic worry, saying, "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Mathew 6:26; ESV) He added, "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:31-33; ESV)

As Jesus reached the concluding remarks of His sermon, He concluded, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:7-11; ESV)

Contrary to what some teach today, Jesus was not advocating a Gospel of Health and Wealth. To the contrary, those who seek after physical riches, and an earthly reward, are disdaining the command of Christ not to lay up treasures on earth, but instead to lay up spiritual treasures. (cf. Matthew 6:19-21) People praying earnestly for carnal things need to carefully consider the words of James, the brother of our Lord, who stated, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." (James 4:3; ESV)

Nevertheless, the promise of Jesus is rather significant, especially in regards to spiritual rewards, which, throughout the Sermon on the Mount, is

what Jesus urges His followers to seek. Again, "Seek first the kingdom of God." (Matthew 6:33a)

If it is true that the man who asks, seeks and knocks, in regards to the spiritual blessings God wants to bestow, is going to have those doors opened to him and find what he is seeking for, then we must also conclude that those who fail to find these blessings failed to properly seek after them. Or perhaps, when they asked, and God opened the door, they failed to go through it.

God has demonstrated that He is willing and ready to save men. He sent His Son to be the propitiation for the sins of those who were willing to put their faith in Him (cf. John 3:16). He spoke to men, inspiring righteous men to write down His expectations for men. In these writings we see the power of God unto salvation (cf. Romans 1:16) and we gain that knowledge necessary to make us wise unto salvation (cf. 2 Timothy 3:15). If God was willing to sacrifice His only Son on the behalf of men, demonstrating love and good, why would He not be willing to work providentially to open doors and answer prayers on behalf of those who truly wanted to be saved.

We see an example of this in Acts 10, where Cornelius, a good man, is sent an angelic visitation, telling him that his prayers have gone up before God and that he should send to Joppa, for Peter, who would give him words by which he and his household would be saved. (cf. Acts 10:1-5; 11:14) Cornelius prayed, God directed him where to go, and Cornelius took the opportunity and obeyed. A little earlier in Acts, we have the account of the Ethiopian Eunuch, who was also seeking for spiritual guidance. God sent him a preacher named Phillip. (cf. Acts 8:26-40) The Ethiopian gladly received this guidance and obeyed the Gospel.

God likely won't send angels to guide preachers and teachers your way, but His providence is sufficient that if you are genuinely looking for spiritual answers, God will answer. If you are knocking at His door, God will open that door. Just make sure when the door opens, you enter through it.

*Jonathan McAnulty  
Chapel Hill Church of Christ  
Gallipolis, Ohio*

# ***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,  
Jeff Bliss, Ronald Clouse

### **Friends & Family**

Horace Yearwood, Helen Morris  
Beverly Martindale,  
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,  
Jeffrey Smith, Betty Turner,  
Shirley Bolin, Brandi Rogers,  
Jeanette Manley,  
Jamie Rushing  
Kenton Lancaster, Glenn Lovell,  
Marilyn Ferrell, Justin Puckett  
Ramona Thurston, April Richey

### **Today's Sermons**

AM - Knock and It Will Be Open  
Matthew 7:7-8

PM - Singing Night

## **Happenings**

### **South Jackson**

#### **Today**

Singing Night

#### **December 3**

Gather to assemble fruit baskets

#### **December 10**

Men's Business and Budget  
Meeting

### **Cards to Send**

Karen Chance  
36 Parkburg Road  
Jackson, TN 38301

Doris Crow & Lisa Thompson  
14 Gregg Street  
Jackson, TN 38301

### **Weekly Record**

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| 6 AM            | 8     |
| Bible Class     | 49/3  |
| AM Worship      | 89/16 |
| PM Worship      | 42/11 |
| Wed Bible Study | N/A   |
| Contribution    | 6051  |

### **Pantry Item**

Canned Mixed Vegetables

# Those Privileged to Serve

## Nov 27 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Butcher, J. Smith

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jonathan Orr

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion: Ken Ross

Contribution:

Jeff Bliss

## Dec 4 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Clouse, P. Hatcher

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Costel Gimphu

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Jonathan Orr

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Ken Ross

Sermon: Singing Night

Closing Prayer: Paul Hatcher

Communion: Ray Pack

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Ken Ross

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Joe Venable

## Nov 30 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devo - Marion Thomas

## Dec 7 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Ray Pack

Devo - Mike Wages

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Medon, TN

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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  |