



# **SOUTH JACKSON BEACON**

Vol XV

December 18, 2022

No.51

## ***Who Are We Trying to Please?***

There were several times in Paul's letters that he had to defend his apostleship and authenticity. On one such occasion he wrote, "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10). This raises a good question for us. Who are we trying to please? It is easy to see how this motivation could change the perspective we have on so many things.

If we are living to please God, then our lives and thought processes would be oriented in that direction. There would be several things that I would be putting first, no matter the circumstances. I would be seeking what was best for the advancement and promotion of the kingdom (Matt. 6:33). I would be seeking to establish God's righteousness and not my own (Matt. 6:33; Rom. 10:1-3). I would "keep seeking the things above" and "set [my] mind" on those things (Col. 3:1-2). I would be thinking and pondering on those things that have the highest moral value (Phil. 4:8). I would make every effort to be pleasing to God. "Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him" (2 Cor. 5:9).

By orienting my life in this way, God has made assurances to us. He has assured us that He has our best interest at heart, not wanting any to perish (2 Pet. 3:9). He has proven Himself over and over again to be faithful in His promises, even when mankind hasn't been (Heb. 10:23). He has shown us loving kindness that we do not deserve (Eph. 2:7). He has forgiven

us when we didn't deserve it (1 John 1:9). He has given us grace through His Son (2 Tim. 1:9). He even has promised us a reward after already doing so much for us. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

If we are trying to please man, we would be given none of those assurances. By pleasing man, I am not serving God. I am a slave to the whim and will of mankind. They can promise me nothing that would be eternal. The ramifications are staggering. I am still in my sin. I have no eternal hope. My life is patterned after a shifting, fleeting form of morality. It leaves my life in a lurch. My family life is like some reality TV show. I would be powerless to do anything about it. Living to please others puts them in the driver's seat of our lives. Who do you want in control of your life? God is the only one who has proven Himself to be capable of guiding us.

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

# ***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, Betty Turner  
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,  
Shirley Bolin, Brandi Rogers,  
Jeanette Manley,  
Kenton Lancaster, Glenn Lovell,  
Marilyn Ferrell, Justin Puckett  
Ramona Thurston, April Richey

### **Today's Sermons**

AM - Continuing in the  
Grace of God  
Acts 13:42-43

PM - Some Wise Advice  
John 2:5

## **Happenings**

### **South Jackson**

We will be meeting at our  
regularly scheduled times on  
December 25th and Jan 1st.

### **Cards to Send**

Roberta Donaldson  
123 Old Pinson Road  
Jackson, TN 38301

Gordon Love  
3324 Riverside Drive  
Jackson, TN 38301

### **Weekly Record**

6 AM	10
Bible Class	46/6
AM Worship	75/10
PM Worship	48/10
Wed Bible Study	36/13
Contribution	2995

### **Pantry Item**

Peanut Butter

### **Basket Baby Shower**

There is a basket in the foyer  
to shower Brooke Mullins with  
Baby Girl Gifts.

Today is the last day to place  
gifts in the basket.

# Those Privileged to Serve

## Dec 18 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Clouse, P. Hatcher

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Jonathan Orr

Opening Prayer:

Carleton Kidder

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Ken Ross

Contribution:

Jeff Bliss

## Dec 25 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - M. Wages, J. Smith

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Costel Gimphu

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion: Carleton Kidder

Contribution:

Charlie Richardson

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Joe Venable

Communion: Ken Ross

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Singing Night

Closing Prayer: Paul Hatcher

Communion: Ray Pack

## Dec 21 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Devo - Ray Pack

## Dec 28 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

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