



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

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No. 8

Why Every Faithful Christian Should Be Able To Be Called A Counselor ***Tim Dooley***

Upon reflecting back on growing up in the church it seems that “church” was something we “did” and it was not “who we were.” At least that is the impression with which I was left. Many of my family members were faithful members of the church and many of them attended services with us. We were together a lot (Bible Study, worship, meetings, fellowships) and the church was a huge part of our lives. But what I witnessed as I grew older and started preaching was that, with the exception of family members, “clicks,” and isolated friendships, the church was not a real community. When problems arose in people’s lives the “church” was often left stunned and bewildered. What I came to conclude was that we as Christians were not close enough to, or trusting enough of, each other to encourage, counsel, help, and love. I think there are a few reasons why this was (and is) true, but the simple fact is we are not doing what Jesus has instructed us to do.

In Isaiah 9:6 we read that Jesus would be called “...Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God...” The Hebrew word “counselor” here means one who advises, gives counsel to, or guides. As the One we are trying to imitate did, we too must do. Barnabas is a great example of this in that we read that the apostles gave him this name because it meant “the son of consolation” (Acts 4:36). Again, Strong’s says this word means to give comfort, consolation, and exhortation.

Not only do I feel we could do better emulating the compassion, guidance and mercy of Christ toward each other, but I also feel we need to remember that we are commanded to do so. Galatians 6:2 instructs us to “bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” James 5:16 demands that we both counsel and seek help, “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may

be healed.” Romans 12:15 requires that we “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.” Wayne Jackson says, “...we all should be willing to assist one another in times of emotional need. Those who are ‘spiritual’ can help to ‘restore’ (mend) their fellows (see Galatians 6:1). We should be able to talk with one another about our problems and receive biblical seasoned advice...any compassionate Christian can do this.”

When we are converted and grounded in the faith and, as Charles Brewer writes, “have built into our hearts the desire to serve God,” we are ready then to ask, “How can I serve?” He goes on to say that, “It is important that we know what is acceptable service. Some have good intent, but lack understanding.” Many Christians do not, and/or cannot, fulfill their duty as counselors because they simply don’t know God’s Word well enough to understand their responsibilities, or do not know it well enough to give godly advice.

Two final thoughts: One, every Christian gives counsel vicariously. Paul told Timothy to “be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). The Christian cannot underestimate the impact he or she has on the lives of those around them. And second, we need to be aware of the relationship and relevance of our lives as Christian counselors to evangelism. Paul told Titus that he was to “exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.” Folks will not come to us to find Christ and we will not be able to lead them to Him and counsel them if we ourselves are not living faithful Christian lives.

I believe that every Christian can be called a counselor when we are imitating The Counselor, when we are close enough as a family of God’s people that we are able and willing to help each other through all of life’s problems, when we are equipped with a firm knowledge of God’s Word, when we are living lights to those round about us, and we are creating and availing ourselves of the opportunities to bring others to Christ. Be faithful!

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Mary Bolen, Luther Merritt
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
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 Mullins, Jerry Crabb,
Karen Chance, Mary Lewis
Gaylon & Betty Cooper
Carolyn Callis

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, Jeff Scott

Today's Sermons

AM - Salvation - Faithfulness
1 Corinthians 4:2

PM - Singing Night

Happenings

South Jackson

Fifth Sunday Services March 31

AM - Greg Long
PM - Special Song Service
There will be no potluck meal.
PM service will start at 1:00 PM

Cards to Send

Carolyn Callis
201 North Tennessee Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Swader Family
1838 South Highland Avenue
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	3
Bible Class	58/18
AM Worship	93/29
PM Worship	57/13
Wed Bible Study	39/5
Contribution	4370
Budget	4014

Those Privileged to Serve

Feb 25 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, R. Clouse

Lead Singing: John Smith
Read Scripture:
Costel Ghimpu
Opening Prayer:
Marion Thomas
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse
Communion: Paul Hatcher
Contribution:
Jonathan Orr

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack
Opening Prayer:
Joe Venable
Sermon: Singiong Night
Closing Prayer: Jerry Butcher
Communion: Ray Pack

Feb 28 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack
Opening Prayer:
Marion Thomas
Devo - Mike Wages

South Jackson Church of Christ
845 Highway 18
Medon, TN
(731) 424-9721
Minister: Ray Pack
rpack119@gmail.com
(731) 437-9501

Mar 3 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - P. Hatcher, J. Butcher

Lead Singing: Mike Wages
Read Scripture:
Tommy Williams
Opening Prayer:
Carleton Kidder
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Greg Long
Communion: Joe Venable
Contribution:
Charlie Richardson

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Mike Wages
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Tommy Williams
Communion: Joe Venable

Mar 6 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Mike Wages
Devo - Ray Pack

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