



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVII

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No. 26

Does Jesus Care ***Jonathan McAnulty***

There is a hymn, written by Frank Graeff, in 1901, which asks, the question, “does Jesus care?” Does Jesus care, when my heart is pained? Does Jesus care, when my way is dark? Does Jesus care, when I’ve tried and failed? Does Jesus care, when I’ve said good-bye.

The apostle Peter says concerning the care of God and the appropriate response to that divine care: “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6-7; NKJV)

As the apostle penned those words, he was writing to Christians who might have reason to doubt that God cared for them. They were saints who were facing persecution and hardships because of their faith. Peter reminds them of the proper manner in which they should answer this persecution: with love and kindness. (cf. 1 Peter 3:13-17) He also reminds them that Christ suffered on our behalf. (eg. 1 Peter 3:18, 4:1). He says concerning their problems: “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.” (1 Peter 4:12-13; NKJV)

The example of Christ reminds us of several important things in relation to suffering and the love of God. Firstly, suffering does not preclude the love of God. Many think to themselves that if God really loved them then He would never allow them to feel pain. But God surely loved His Son, Jesus, and Jesus still suffered. He experienced abandonment by His friends and students. He experienced betrayal. He experienced beatings and torture. He experienced an excruciating, and public, death. There is no heart-ache, pain, or sorrow that Jesus cannot empathize with, having suffered similar in His own flesh.

But through it all, Jesus held to His faith in the love and mercy of God, the Father. He confessed this faith, saying to God in prayer, “for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:25) With His final words He commended His soul into the Father’s hands (cf. Luke 23:46). Jesus knew that God cared for Him, even in the midst of misery and sorrow, and that such suffering did not signify that God was uncaring.

The example of Christ also reminds us that good can come through suffering, if we face it with faith. The suffering of Christ was not without purpose. It served to bring salvation to a world which desperately needed it. As Peter reminds us, Jesus suffered for us. Elsewhere, we are reminded that no suffering is ever pleasant as we are going through it. But that does not mean we cannot grow through it, and even from it, nor does it preclude the possibility that the suffering might in some way prove beneficial. It is a rather short-sighted perspective which refuses to consider that sometimes God might allow us to experience grief because doing so, in one fashion or another, is good for us, leading to greater joy afterward, if we allow it to. (cf. Hebrews 12:3-11) That’s not necessarily a message you want to hear in the middle of suffering, but that does not make it a false argument.

Finally, though, the suffering of Christ reminds us that Jesus cared enough about us to suffer on our behalf. When you find yourself doubting whether or not God cares for you, remember the counsel of the Bible, which reminds us “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32; NKJV) Why would God care about us enough to allow Jesus to suffer for us, but not care enough about us to do more for us, when we turn to Him in faith, through Christ.

God does not promise to take away all of our cares and sorrows in this world. But He has promised to give His children strength to face those cares, if they trust Him and follow where He leads them.

When we find ourselves wondering, “Does Jesus care,” we can answer with the old hymn-writer, “Oh yes, He cares. I know He cares.” And in so knowing, let us follow the advice of the apostle, by humbling ourselves before God, and casting our cares upon Him.

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Mary Bolen, Luther & Jo Merritt
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Fredie Stewart, Mary Lewis,
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,
Doug Crouse, Carolyn Callis
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, Shirley Puckett
Gaylon & Betty Cooper
Carleton & Cindy Kidder

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Shirley Bolin,
Beverly Martindale,
Glenn Lovell, Gladys Gowan,
Diane Hubbard, Brandi Rogers,
Marilyn Ferrell, Corey Allen,
Ruby Malone, Justin Puckett,
Kenton Lancaster

Today's Sermons

AM - Mike Wages Speaking

PM - Sermon in Song -
Care

Happenings

South Jackson

Today

5th Sunday fellowship meal
after AM services.
PM Service will start at 1:00 PM

Cards to Send

Freddie & Carolyn Callis
201 NBorth Tennessee Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Ken & Paula Wadley
400 Harts Bridge Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	6
Bible Class	49/10
AM Worship	77/10
PM Worship	45/0
Wed Bible Study	41/6
Contribution	3676
Budget	4014

Speaker Schedule

July 7 - PM - Greg Long
July 21 - AM - Marion Thomas
July 21 - PM - TBA

Those Privileged to Serve

June 30- AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, R. Clouse

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Read Scripture:

Van McConnell

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Mike Wages

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion: Marion Thomas

Jeff Bliss

July 7- AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Butcher, P. Hatcher

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Costel Ghimpu

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse

Communion: Paul Hatcher

Jonathan Orr

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Song Service

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Ray Pack

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Greg Long

Closing Prayer: Jerry Butcher

Communion: Joe Venable

July 3 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Ron Clouse

Devo - Ray Pack

July 10 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Devo - Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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(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