



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

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Christian Giving ***Tim Dooley***

One of the great banes of preaching is to have to address topics that society, and many in the pew, have no desire to hear, and of which many are simply intolerant. The sad truth is, many preachers and elderships have acquiesced to the worldly mindset in order to keep the numbers up and the contributions coming in. A recent survey of denominational preachers noted size of the congregation, amount of contributions, and size of ministerial staff as the leading indicators of success in ministry. Sadly many in the Lord's church are today operating on the same premises.

To that end many have either stopped preaching on, or changed their views on, issues like divorce and remarriage, social drinking, modesty, and yes, even giving. Why? Because people don't want to hear it! They don't want you meddling in their "personal lives." But preaching and teaching the truth is going to "meddle" because God demands "personal" changes in our lives (see the definition of repentance) in order to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29). With that in mind allow me to go to a little "meddling."

Read what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:6–7. Simply stated, easily understood, and filled with the power of inspiration. So why is it that so many Christians fail to live up to this biblical text? I heard a missionary say recently, "The money is out there in the brotherhood, we just have to get it out of their pockets." Sad indeed that so many good works are hindered because of greed, worldliness and biblical unfaithfulness.

Consider with me the following points:

We Are Stewards, Not Owners. In Matthew 25:14–30 Jesus tells a story of a man who delivers his own wealth to his servants, and when he returned those servants were called to give an account of their stewardship. Everything we have is thanks to the blessings of God. 1 Timothy 6:7 tells us, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." Someone says, "Well, I worked hard for everything I have,

God hasn't given me anything." People all over the world work just as hard as you do and do not have the blessings you have.

Conversely, there are people all over the world who do not lift so much as a finger compared to you who have much more. God gave you a brain, a strong back, and opportunities. What you have you have because of Him! Consider also that Matthew 25 places our eternal destiny squarely on this issue! Martin Luther once said, "I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess."

We Are Commanded, Not Encouraged. Many who want to dilute the word of God in order to make it more "palatable," or "appealing," want to hear God use words like encourage, suggest, or recommend. The problem with this is God requires certain things of us in order for us to reap eternal benefits. Passages like Matthew 25, Hebrews 13:16, and 2 Corinthians 9:6–7 all make certain demands. "But I live in the land of the free," shouts the American modernist/pluralist. Yes you do and God allows all me the freedom to choose to do good or not. To those who choose to not do good it is sin (James 4:17).

We Are To Be Christ-Like, Not World-Like. Christians are supposed to be different than the rest of the world, not conformed to it (Romans 12:1–2). We are to let our light shine before the men of this world (Matthew 5:16). God predestined His children to be changed into the like image of the Son (Romans 8:9). But being like the world will cause many Christians-in-name-only to be lost for eternity. "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:15–17). What example did Jesus leave us in regards to this issue (1 Peter 2:21)? "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

So how is your giving to the Lord and His work? Is there more you can do? Do you need to spend some time reflecting on how God has blessed you and how you are using those blessings? Do you need to take a long hard look at your life and your budget? Do you have a budget? Someone once said, "If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving." And remember God said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Mary Bolen, Luther & Jo Merritt
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Epperson, Sue Harris
Fredie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,
Doug Crouse,
Freddie & Carolyn Callis,
Margie Montgomery,
Betty Mosely, Teriyaki Anderson
James Morris, Freeman Kidder,
Andy Vaughn, Pearl Johnson,
Paula Wadley, Judy Ellis
Jerry Crabb, Karen Chance,
Mary Lewis, Roberta Donaldson
Gaylon & Betty Cooper

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Shirley Bolin,
Beverly Martindale,
Glenn & Trydy Lovell,
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Brandi Rogers, Corey Allen
Kenton Lancaster, Roger Callis,
Caraline Rogers
Justin Puckett, Ruby Malone

Today's Sermons

AM - Some Characteristics of
Godly Giving
1 Corinthians 16:1-2

PM - 4 Things Paul Knew
2 Timothy 1:12

Happenings

South Jackson

Adult Holiday Party

December 14
10:00 AM - More Details on the
Bulletin Board

Cards to Send

Ronald Clouse
190 Mifflin Road
Jackson, TN 38301

James Morris
C/O Vanessa Perry
97 Old Pinson Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	5
Bible Class	46/25
AM Worship	83/15
PM Worship	44/0
Wed Bible Study	34/0
Contribution	9937
Budget	4014

Those Privileged to Serve

Dec 1 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Butcher, P. Hatcher

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jonathan Orr

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse

Communion: Paull Hatcher

Contribution:

Jerry Butcher

Dec 8 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - M. Wages, J. Smith

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Costel Ghimpu

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Marion Thomas

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Jeff Bliss

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Jerry Butcher

Communion: Ray Pack

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ian Shoemate

Communion: Joe Venable

Dec 4 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Clayton Dnaley

Opening Prayer:

Ray Pack

Devo - Mike Wages

Dec 11 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Devo - Ray Pack

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Service Times

Early Worship	6:00 AM
Gospel of Christ - WBBJ	5:00 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