



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVI

December 8, 2024

No. 49

Merry Christmyths ***Steve Higginbotham***

Any time our culture talks about Jesus, God's people have an open door to enrich the conversation. As you know, during this holiday season, much will be said about Jesus that is inaccurate. These inaccuracies are not just spoken by the world, but by Christians as well. God's own children, the "people of the Book," even struggle to discern between fact and fiction concerning this pivotal, historical event.

May I challenge you to a short quiz? The purpose of this quiz is not just an "I gotcha" Bible trivia game, but rather has a weighty purpose for you to consider at the end of this article. Give it a try. See how well you do.

True or False The Bible says the angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph to inform him that Mary was with child.

True or False The Bible says that three wise men came to to the manger to worship and give gifts to Jesus.

True or False The Bible says that an unknown number of wise men came to the manger to worship Jesus.

True or False The Bible says a bright star appeared in the sky and led the shepherds to the manger.

True or False The Bible says a bright star appeared in the sky and led the wise men to the manger.

True or False The Bible says the shepherds and the wise men were present on the night of Jesus' birth.

True or False The Bible says an innkeeper told Mary and Joseph that there was no room in the inn, thus Jesus was born in a manger.

Okay, so how did you do? Did anyone get them all right? Did you get a passing grade? Well, if you answered any of the questions with a "True," you were mistaken. Every statement is false for one reason or

another. Open your Bible and check it for yourself.

What I have discovered through the years is that it is surprisingly easy for us to believe as fact, what is in reality, fiction. Furthermore, this “fiction” is sometimes propagated by religion. How many church lawns and “Christmas” re-enactments will portray a nativity scene that inaccurately portrays the biblical account?

But now here’s the point of my article: This article really isn’t about “gotcha trivia,” surrounding the birth of Jesus. It has a much more important purpose that is this: If we can be misinformed about something as fundamental as the birth of Jesus, what’s to make us think we cannot be misled regarding other religious matters?

Friends, make sure your faith is not based on what others have told you is true, but rather make sure your faith is based on what you know to be true from your own personal study. Let the “fiction” you see perpetuated on church lawns and in church pageants this holiday season be a reminder and a warning to you to do your own Bible study and to never be content with what others say.

Furthermore, let this short quiz cause you to stop saying things like, “I don’t know how in the world, [such and such denomination] can believe that doctrine?” Sure you do! They are guilty of doing what we, ourselves sometimes do. We take someone else’s word for truth, and we are content to perpetuate what has been handed down to us.

Maybe this little quiz will cause us to stop impugning the motives of the religious people with whom I disagree, and realize that they may love the Lord as much as we do, but have simply not done their research. May we be tools in God’s hands to help them better understand.

*“Prove all things; Hold fast what is good”
1 Thessalonians 5:21*

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 - Gving Modeled After Christ
John 3:16

PM - What Should I Bring
to Church
Psalm 100:1-5

Happenings

South Jackson

Adult Holiday Party

December 14

10:00 AM - More Details on the
Bulletin Board

Cards to Send

Lisa Dukes
36 Brookfield Drive
Oakfield, TN 38362

Joe & Faye Venable
1065 Forrest
Henderson, TN 38340

Weekly Record

6 AM	5
Bible Class	48/14
AM Worship	73/24
PM Worship	44/24
Wed Bible Study	48/21
Contribution	4207
Budget	4014

Those Privileged to Serve

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

Dec 15 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R.Pack, R. Clouse

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jeff Bliss

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Paul Hatcher

Communion: Marion Thomas

Contribution:

Charlie Richardson

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ian Shoemate

Communion: Joe Venable

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse

Communion: Greg Long

Dec 11 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Devo - Mike Wages

Dec 18 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Devo - Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Minister: Ray Pack

rpack119@gmail.com

(731) 437-9501

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