



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVII

January 12, 2025

No. 2

Psalm 23 – The Eternal Psalm ***Kevin Cauley***

The 23rd Psalm, a Psalm of David, is perhaps the most beloved of all the Psalms. The beauty that is contained within its lines testifies to its canonization among the greatest works of poetic literature. Simply from an academic and secular perspective, this Psalm merits the highest accolades. When we consider the great spiritual truths that it contains, we cannot but be affected by its words of guidance and wisdom.

Many have turned to this psalm for comfort in time of bereavement and rightly so. This psalm has provided guidance to the poorest serf and to the highest noble. It transcends all societal boundaries in its scope and application because it speaks to the core of the human condition. We humans are folks who need both comfort and guidance because we toil in ignorance and suffer from our mortality.

This condition compels us to seek a higher, better, and greater explanation; such we find in God. Paradoxically, then, this Psalm couches God's reply to our query in human, humble, yet hopeful terms. This psalm promises that despite our failings, shortcomings, ignorance, worry, anxiety, and fear, that for those who humbly trust in the guiding staff of the saving Shepherd, all will be well both in this life and in the life to come.

Consider Isaiah 57:15 in relationship to this Psalm: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

Our attitude of humility before The Great I Am engenders a favorable response. Yet God's response comes in an equally humble way.

Being a shepherd in the ancient world wasn't all that dignified an occupation. Both David's father and his brothers were content to permit him, the youngest, to tend the sheep. It was lowly work. How fitting, then, that God, the infinitely humble One, be described as being involved in such work. How God stoops low to serve His people! The metaphor typifies God's patience, longsuffering, providence, love, mercy, grace, and comfort in relationship to His creation. Oh that the world could know these great attributes of God!

The metaphor rightly forecasts the eventual role of the God-Man, Jesus. His humility and hardship reflect the Shepherd's work – toiling, suffering, and dying for the sake of the flock. He is the Shepherd who seeks the sheep who have gone astray (Luke 15:4). He is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11). He is the great Shepherd of the sheep (Hebrews 13:20). He is the chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4).

Properly appointed pastors would do well to know this Psalm and to imitate the characteristics of God in their shepherding of the local flocks. Grief counselors would do well to have this psalm framed and appropriately displayed so as to bring to their mind the human condition it conveys. Husbands and wives would do well to consider this psalm as a model portrait of a loving and tender relationship that fosters and encourages personal support and development. Parents would do well to apply this psalm as they seek to lead and guide their children in the home. Preachers and teachers of God's word would do well to both know and regularly teach this psalm to their hearers.

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Mary Bolen, Luther & Jo Merritt
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Epperson, Sue Harris
Freddie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,
Doug Crouse, Mary Bolen
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 & Trudy Lovell,
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Brandi Rogers, Corey Allen
Kenton Lancaster, Roger Callis,
Caraline Rogers
Justin Puckett, Ruby Malone

Today's Sermons

AM - Revival Begins with Me
1 King 22:8-14

PM - What Is Valuable to God?
1 Samuel 16:7

Happenings

South Jackson

January 19th

Men's Business Meeting follow-
ing AM Service

Cards to Send

Mary Bolen
802 Oneal Lane
Henderson, TN 38340

Lonnie Gray
711 Mac Hart Road
Denmark, TN 38391

Weekly Record

6 AM	5
Bible Class	47/8
AM Worship	81/11
PM Worship	36/16
Wed Bible Study	46/20
Contribution	3419
Budget	4014

Those Privileged to Serve

Jan 12 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - P. Hatcher, J. Butcher

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Jerry Butcher

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder

Communion: Marion Thomas

Contribution:

Jeff Bliss

Jan 19 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Smith, M. Wages

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Costel Ghimpu

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Paul Hatcher

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Jerry Butcher

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Greg Long

Communion: Joe Venable

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse

Communion: Joe Venable

Jan 8 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Devo - Ray Pack

Jan 8 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Ray Pack

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
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