



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVII

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No. 8

Bearing Fruit? Works Salvation? Or Do Nothing? Tim Dooley

There are those who will proudly proclaim that no one has to do anything in order to be saved and loudly complain about a perceived works salvation. So, let's be clear and balanced here: Does the Bible teach that we don't have to do anything? Not even close! Does the Bible teach that we somehow merit our salvation by the works that we do? Nope, doesn't teach that either. The truth, as often is the case, lies somewhere in between these two extreme ideas.

John demanded that those who came out to be baptized return and "bear fruit" if they hoped to be saved (Luke 3:8–9). When many came to him asking what they needed to do he didn't say that they didn't have to do anything but instructed them in the ways of righteousness. When Jesus came along he not only taught righteous living but also went about doing good, leaving us an example to do just as he did (Acts 10:38).

Obedience to God is absolutely essential! Yet we must also consider that just going about doing good doesn't define Christianity or righteousness. Jesus also said that the gospel needed to be preached (Mark 13:10). Doing good and bearing fruit is a vehicle through which we gain the opportunity to tell others about Christ, His love, and the hope we have in Him. Obey God, bear fruit, and preach the Good News. Faithful living is essential to our salvation (Matthew 25:21, 23)!

Saved by Grace or Saved by Works?

Kevin Cauley

Many people believe that religion is just about morality. In that vein, they will make statements like, "All religions are the same; one is no better than the other. They all teach the same morality, so what difference does it make which one I believe?" First, they do not all teach the same morality, but even if they did, they still would not be the same because of the differences in doctrine. Is there one God, or many? Is God a person, or impersonal? Can we have a relationship with Him, or is He unrelatable? Did Jesus die on the cross or does it not matter as long as we are moral? Are we saved by grace, or by works? These are doctrinal questions, yet they are impactful. saved by grace

Are we saved by grace or by works? The answer to this question separates Christianity from all other world religions. Christianity alone teaches salvation by grace. All other world religions teach salvation by merit/works. Under the works-based scheme of salvation, all it takes is 51% good deeds. 49% of a person's life may be evil, and he still be saved because all that matters is the number of good works verses the number of bad works. Islam, mainline Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and every other world religion teaches this. Christianity alone says contrary (Ephesians 2:8).

What happens when you get to 75% evil and 25% good? Do you work to balance out? Do you give up? You can't start over. There are no second chances. Or what if you end life at 51% evil and 49% good? You were so close, but eh, too bad because you crossed the line one too many times. Oh, but someone says, "I'm at 10% evil and 90% good." Is there a temptation to sin a little more because you have the "credit" so to speak? Such a system does not encourage morality, but immorality. Doctrine makes a difference!

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, Freddie 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,
Jane Washington

Today's Sermons

AM - Faith and Works - Part 2
James 2:18-26

PM - Singing Night

Happenings

South Jackson

Today

Men's Business Meeting
Following AM services

**Area Events are posted on the
bulletin board**

Cards to Send

Sandra Epperson
37 Southside Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Leslie Taylor
80 Fawn Ridge Road
Jackson, TN 38305

Weekly Record

6 AM	3
Bible Class	42/6
AM Worship	54/10
PM Worship	44/27
Wed Bible Study	No Services
Contribution	4149
Budget	4014

Those Privileged to Serve

Feb 23 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Butcher, P. Hatcher

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Costel Ghimpu

Opening Prayer:

Paul Hatcher

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Marion Thomas

Communion: Greg Long

Contribution:

Jerry Butcher

Mar 2 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Smith, M. Wages

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Jeff Bliss

Opening Prayer:

Jeff Dove

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Jonathan Orr

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Ray Pack

Sermon: Singing Night

Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse

Communion: Greg Long

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Joe Venabe

Feb 26 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devo - Ray Pack

Feb 26 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Ian Shoemate

Devo - Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Medon, TN

(731) 424-9721

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