



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVII

May 4, 2025

No. 18

The Root of Pride ***Kevin Cauley***

I know a little bit about anger and pride. It is a set of sins that I have struggled with for many years. I am fortunate that, over the years, I have had some good brothers help me with these issues. Some have helped me out of real concern; others, not so much, but God has been working all that time, and I accept His correction in whatever form it comes.

The root of pride is the ego, and the ego is based in the flesh. Consider Jesus words in Mark 7:21-23: "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." Paul tells us that these are all works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21).

Pride is deceitful and insidious, and it is easy to be deceived by pride. We tend to rationalize our behavior, and practice self justification. This is what Naaman did. After he went away from Elisha, he rationalized his anger by telling himself that he was worth more than what God had to offer him: a seven-fold baptism in the Jordan river. He thought he was increasing his value by comparing himself to the prophet's hand waving gestures, and his own homeland. He really only cheapened himself. A person is so much more valuable than an impressive showing, or a clean river.

This is why pride is such a problem: it reduces persons to things, and causes us not to love ourselves as God loves us, and God loves us much more than we will ever know. After all, He gave the life of His Son for us (John 3:16). How much was the son of God worth? Telling ourselves that we are worth less than what God tells us we are worth is the worst kind of

self-deceit, because we can't properly love our brother if we don't love ourselves. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:39). We can make an effort at it, but we will not get very far before we become discouraged with ourselves and give up.

The flesh is deceitful making us think that we are worth some worldly object. This is why the apostle Paul told us not to be deceived by it: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8). Pride sows to the flesh, and it will destroy us if it goes unchecked.

I have often had this question asked to me over the years: "Is there such a thing as good pride?" Recently a friend told me that he never read such in his Bible. I've never read such either. I have read this verse: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). I've always read this verse as if the words "destruction" and "fall" were very bad things, and it does depend upon what kind of destruction and fall one has, but more recently, I've learned that "destruction" and "falling" can be very good things if directed in the right way. Paul wrote, "And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Corinthians 12:9). There is always hope, but let us not think that we can sin that grace may come (Romans 6:1).

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,
Sammy Puckett

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, Betty Green

Today's Sermons

AM - The Pride of Life
1 John 2:15-17

PM - Ancient Warnings for a
Modern World
Psalm 19:9-11

Happenings

South Jackson

Today

May 24

Ladies Day
See bulletin board for details

Cards to Send

Cindy Kidder
4995 Highway 45 South
Finger, TN 38334

Freeman & Sheila Kidder
95 Sugar Creek
Hendeerson, TN 38340

Weekly Record

6 AM	3
Bible Class	47/7
AM Worship	76/14
PM Worship	50/NA
Wed Bible Study	48/9
Contribution	3553
Budget	4014

Those Privileged to Serve

May 4 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Smith, M. Wages

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jerry Butcher

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Freeman Kidder

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Jeff Bliss

May 11 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Clouse, R. Pack

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Costel Ghimpu

Opening Prayer:

Van McConnell

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Jeff Dove

Communion: Marion Thomas

Contribution:

Jerry Butcher

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Mike Wages

Communion: Joe Venable

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Greg Long

Communion: Paul Hatcher

May 7 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devo - Ray Pack

May 14 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Opening Prayer:

Ray Pack

Devo - Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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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