



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVII

July 6, 2025

No. 27

What is Freedom? ***Kevin Cauley***

What does it mean to be free? Some say that freedom is being able to do anything with no limits. I do not subscribe to that definition because, if followed consistently, it is a sure way to lose your freedom. Think about it. "No limits" means that a person could steal, lie, commit adultery, murder, and numerous other evil things that limit the exercise of freedom. Consider this illustration. You are the captain of a beautiful ocean-going vessel, and you may sail it wherever you please. You have chart and compass to help you navigate and avoid the rocks. You could ignore them, sail your boat into the rocks, and destroy it, but that would practically eliminate your freedom. Alternatively, you could use the chart and compass to avoid the rocks and go most any place you desire on the ocean. Who is more free? The person who destroyed his boat in the name of "freedom," or the person who followed the chart and compass? freedom boat

In this illustration, your body is the "boat," and your spirit is the "captain." The Bible is the chart and compass and the rocks are the consequences of sin. You may wreck your life by ignoring the Bible and sailing among the rocks of sin, or by listening to the Bible you may avoid the rocks of sin and have a truly free life. Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). Paul wrote, "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13). If you want real freedom, hear and obey the word of God

Why God Should Be the Foundation of Government

Kevin Cauley

The first line of the original draft of the Declaration of Independence was, "We hold these truths to be sacred & undeniable; that all men are created equal & independent, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are the preservation of life, & liberty, & the pursuit of happiness." When Jefferson asked Benjamin Franklin to edit the document, he crossed out "sacred and undeniable" and replaced it with "self-evident." Why? Franklin preferred that the truths under consideration come from man's reason than the Creator's revelation.

Truth that rests on God's revelation means the unchanging word of God serves as the underlying basis for government. Truth that rests on man's reason results in fickle public opinion making the law. The difference is between a government that fundamentally stays the same and one that changes with popular opinion. Today, the nation no longer looks to God for its foundational truths, but human wisdom. Many do not want to be governed by the founding documents. They want to make law without submitting to a constitution. This is just tyranny, totalitarianism disguised as "democracy." It entails the notion that "might makes right." It means the slavery of the citizenship to an all-powerful human government.

By contrast, divine truth preserves freedom and limits government. Only when a society recognizes the existence of God is freedom elevated above tyranny. God gave the Ten Commandments to the children of Israel instead of an earthly king to preserve freedom, not to limit it. Once Israel said, "Give us a king," they orchestrated their own demise. The result was a downward spiral into war, poverty, exploitation of the weak, and eventually slavery. It is truth and only truth that makes us free (John 8:32)

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 Callis,
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 & Shirley Puckett

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Shirley Bolin,
Beverly Martindale,
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 - Moments with the Master -
A Touching Moment
Mark 5:25-34

PM - Joe Venable Speaking

Happenings

South Jackson

July 6-11

Ray will be at Horizons at FHU
PM Speaker - Joe Venable

July 18-25

Ray will be on Vacation
AM Speaker - Marion Thomas
PM Speaker - Ron Couse

Cards to Send

Eddie & Teriyaki Anderson
225 Deerfield Loop
Henderson, TN 38340

Luther & Jo Merritt
121 Chester Levee Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	4
Bible Class	55/0
AM Worship	78/0
PM Worship	35/0
Wed Bible Study	49/0
Contribution	3229
Budget	4014

Those Privileged to Serve

July 6 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM -J. Smith, M. Wages

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Jeff Bliss

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ron Clouse

Communion: Paul Hatcher

Contribution:

Louie Leroux

July 13 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - R. Pack, R. Clouse

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Costel Ghimpu

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Louie LeRoux

Communion: Joe Venable

Contribution:

Charlie Richardson

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Greg Long

Sermon: Joe Venable

Closing Prayer: Jerry Butcher

Communion: Mike Wages

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse

Communion: Greg Long

July 9 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Devo - Mike Wages

July 16 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Devo - Ray Pack

South Jackson Church of Christ

845 Highway 18

Medon, TN

(731) 424-9721

Minister: Ray Pack

rpac119@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