



# SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVIII

February 22, 2026

No.7

## ***Is it Wrong to Call Someone Good?***

***Jon Mitchell***

The Greek word translated in English as “good” in Jesus’ conversation with the rich young ruler is *agathos*, which is defined as “of good constitution or nature,” “useful, salutary,” “good, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy,” “excellent, distinguished,” and “upright, honourable.”

Jesus used this same Greek word when he talked of how his Father made his sun to rise on the evil “and on the good” (Matt. 5:45). He used it when he said, “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things” (Matt. 12:35). He used it in a parable when he talked of servants who “gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good” (Matt. 22:10), and in another parable when he told of the master who said to his servant, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matt. 25:21, 23).

In like manner, Luke was inspired by the Holy Spirit of God (2 Pet. 1:19-21) to use this same Greek word to describe Joseph and Barnabas (Luke 23:50; Acts 11:24). Paul also was inspired to use this same word when he wrote, “...though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die” (Rom. 5:7).

Therefore, it’s clear from how “good” is used repeatedly throughout Scripture to describe imperfect human beings that it is not sinful or erroneous to refer to certain of our fellow man as “good.” So why did Jesus say to the rich young ruler, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone” (Mark 10:18)?

First, remember that God is the ultimate epitome of goodness due to his sinless perfection and boundless love, patience, grace, and compassion. While we imperfect human beings can justifiably and biblically be called “good” in certain ways and by various degrees as shown above, none of us can ever attain the degree of goodness possessed by Jehovah due to our sin (Rom. 3:23).

Secondly, Jesus IS God (John 1:1, 14; 10:30; 17:11, 22; 14:9; Phil. 2:6; 2 Cor. 4:4; Col. 1:15, 19). This fact was brought up repeatedly by him during his preaching and by the miracles he wrought throughout his earthly ministry (cf. Mark 2:5-12). Because of this, it is clear that when the rich young ruler initially addressed him as “Good Teacher” (Mark 10:17), Jesus immediately saw another opportunity to proclaim himself as Deity. Thus, he replied, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone” (v. 18), a subtle but definite hint to the ruler, anyone else who was listening, and to us as readers today that the ruler was addressing Deity when he spoke to Jesus.

Thus, one should take “No one is good except God alone” not as an indictment of sin by Christ against referring to anyone other than God as “good.” If that was the case, Christ himself as well as his inspired apostles and prophets would have violated his own edict by referring both generally and specifically to imperfect human beings as “good.” Rather, one should interpret Jesus’ statement to the rich young ruler primarily as an implication of his Deity and secondarily as an indication that our own goodness can never compare to the goodness of God.

# *Congregational News & Notes*

## **Prayer Requested**

### **Members**

Mary Bolen, Luther & Jo Merritt  
Ron and Nadine McDonald,  
Sandra Epperson, Sue Harris  
Freddie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,  
Lisa Dukes, Doug Crouse,  
Freddie Callis, Betty Mosely,  
Teriyaki Anderson,  
James Morris, Troyce Taylor,  
Pearl Johnson, Paula Wadley,  
Judy Ellis, Jerry Crabb,  
Karen Chance, Mary Lewis,  
Gaylon & Betty Cooper,  
Sammy & Shirley Puckett,  
Danny Darnaby

### **Friends & Family**

Horace Yearwood,  
Beverly Martindale,  
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,  
Brandi Rogers, Corey Allen  
Kenton Lancaster, Roger Callis,  
Caraline Rogers, Justin Puckett,  
Ruby Malone, Betty Green,  
Jane Washington

### **Today's Sermons**

AM - Fruit of the Spirit -  
Goodness  
Galatians 5:22-23  
  
PM - Singing Night

### **Happenings**

#### **South Jackson**

#### **March 29**

5th Sunday Fellowship Meal  
following AM Services!  
Evening service at 1:00 PM

#### **April 24**

Areawide Singing at  
South Jackson

#### **Cards to Send**

Kenny & Pavda Green  
249 Dustin Drive  
Jackson, TN 38301

Sheila Kidder  
95 Sugar Creek Drive  
Henderson, TN 38340

#### **Weekly Record**

Bible Class	49/13
AM Worship	86/20
PM Worship	49/9
Wed Bible Study	46/4
Contribution	4465
Budget	3500

# Those Privileged to Serve

## Feb 22 - AM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: John Smith  
Read Scripture:  
Costel Ghimpu  
Opening Prayer:  
Paul Hatcher  
Sermon: Ray Pack  
Closing Prayer: Jeff Dove  
Communion: Marion Thomas  
Contribution:  
Van McConnell

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack  
Opening Prayer:  
Mike Wages  
Sermon: Singing Night  
Closing Prayer: Colton Brown  
Communion: Greg Long

## Feb 25 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Marion Thomas  
Opening Prayer:  
Paul Hatcher  
Devo - Mike Wages

## March 1 - AM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages  
Read Scripture:  
Charlie Richardson  
Opening Prayer:  
Marion Thomas  
Sermon: Ray Pack  
Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse  
Communion: Greg Long  
Contribution:  
Jeff Bliss

## PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: John Smith  
Opening Prayer:  
Paul Hatcher  
Sermon: Ray Pack  
Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse  
Communion: Greg Long

## March 4 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: John Smith  
Opening Prayer:  
Ray Pack  
Devo - Ronald Clouse

South Jackson Church of Christ  
845 Highway 18  
Medon, TN  
(731) 424-9721  
Minister: Ray Pack  
rpack119@gmail.com  
(731) 437-9501

## Service Tim

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