



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XVII

December 7, 2025

No. 48

Praying for a Hedge of Thorns ***Steve Higginbotham***

Today, I read a memoir of a man who lived and died over 200 years ago. His name was John Carrol, and he died at the young age of twenty-two years. Instead of being bitter about his circumstances (e.g., the death of both his parents and his illnesses), he was somehow able to give thanks for his adversities. What shaped his way of thinking was a lesson he learned from a “hedge of thorns” near his house that had kept him from trouble as a young boy.

I was moved by this young man’s spiritual strength and even more moved when I read what God said through the prophet Hosea, “I will hedge up your way with thorns, And wall her in so that she cannot find her paths” (Hosea 2:6). In this passage, God was declaring what he would do to help keep the nation of Israel faithful to him. He said he would hedge them up with thorns! Not only would this hedge provide protection from the enemies of Israel, but it would also keep Israel from herself!

I’m sure all of us have walked through the woods and gotten tied up in thorns. These incidents may have torn our clothes and left us a little bloody, but they also probably caused us to backtrack our steps. You see, some paths just aren’t worth it. The thorns are too painful, so we reverse our course.

It's for this reason, I believe we should be praying for God to give us a "Hedge of Thorns." It's a frightening prayer, but one that needs to be prayed by those who are truly seeking God. Are you willing to experience pain if it will keep you from sin and help you live a holy life? Are you willing to suffer if it will aid you in staying focused on Heaven? According to Hosea 2:6, this is something God is willing to do for us.

I pray that God will make it too painful for...

*The church to abandon the doctrine
of God for the doctrines of men.*

*The church to eradicate gender-based
role distinctions to appease a culture that can't even de-
fine what a man and a woman are.*

*The church to ignore hard commands but
be content to obey the rest.*

*Christians to abandon a life of holiness
for a life of worldliness.*

*Christians to seek the approval of men
over the approval of God.*

Personally, I pray that God will hedge me in with thorns so painful I would never want to leave his path. I also pray that God will hedge my children in with thorns that will convince them that a life of sin isn't worth it. I want all of us to be reminded by the pain of the thorns, to walk with God, and never stray. I want to learn to appreciate the thorns of life for their protection from my enemies as well as the protection they provide me from myself. God, Hedge us in with thorns!

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, 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 - Cleanse My Heart
Psalm 51

PM - Hymns of the Faith -
Wonderful Words of Life

Happenings

South Jackson

December 13

Adult Holiday Party
Details will be coming soon

Cards to Send

Pat Gordon
Bells Retirement Village
366 Herdon Drive
Bldg 3 Apt 33
Bells, TN 38006

James Morris
C/O Vanessa Perry
97 Old Pinson Road
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

Bible Class	46/0
AM Worship	73/13
PM Worship	57/5
Wed Bible Study	45/0
Contribution	4282
Budget	4014

Those Privileged to Serve

Dec 7 - AM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages
Read Scripture:
Charlie Richardson
Opening Prayer:
Jeff Dove
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Carleton Kidder
Communion: Greg Long
Contribution:
Colton Brown

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Eddie Anderson
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Jerry Butcher
Communion: Greg Long

Dec 10 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Mike Wages
Devo - Jerry Butcher

Dec 14 - AM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: John Smith
Read Scripture:
Costel Ghimpu
Opening Prayer:
Colton Brown
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Greg Long
Communion: Marion Thomas
Contribution:
Charlie Richardson

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Joe Venable
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Ron Clouse
Communion: Mike Wages

Dec 10 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Ray Pack
Devo - Marion Thomas

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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