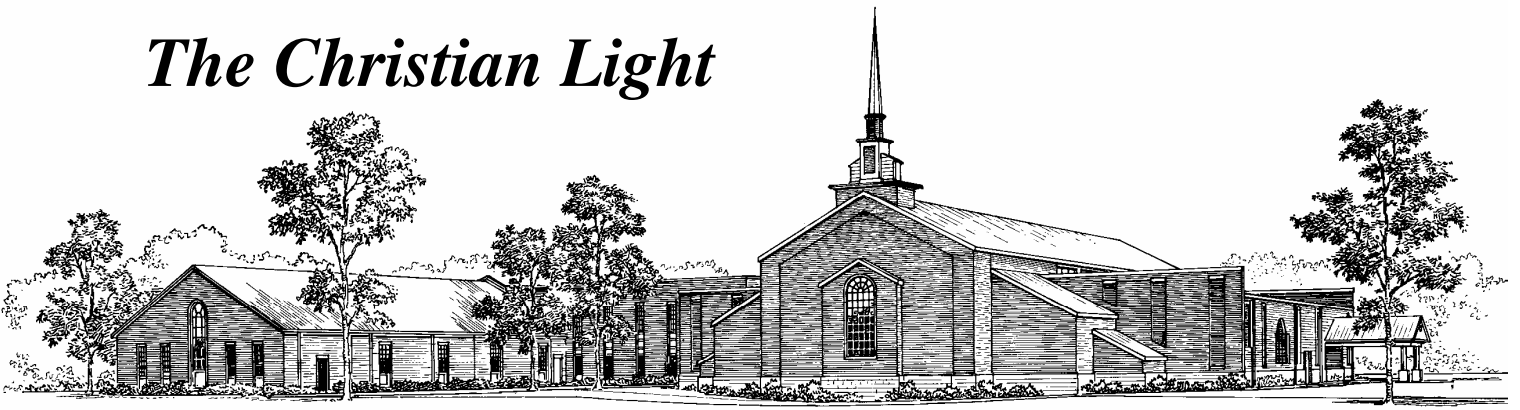


The Christian Light



North Jackson Church of Christ, Jackson, Tennessee

So! And So What?

"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Perhaps we have been a bit unfair to the Thessalonians. Judging from the statement in Acts 17:11 alone you would think no one in Thessalonica was receptive to the gospel. But some of them were persuaded by Paul's preaching; even *"a great multitude of the devout Greeks"* (Acts 17:4). And then when you read the first and second epistles to the Thessalonians you come to realize the affection Paul had for the believers in this city.

So why the critical tone in Acts 17:11 regarding the Thessalonians? Luke has in mind the Jewish response in this city. This is seen by comparing the descriptive phrase, *"some of them were persuaded..."* (speaking of the Jews in Thessalonica), with Luke's description of the Berean Jews in verse 12, *"Therefore many of them believed..."* Add to this the fact that the unbelieving Thessalonian Jews stirred up quite a bit of trouble in reaction to Paul and Silas (vs.5-9), and then followed Paul and Silas to Berea and stirred up trouble there as well (v.13). Therefore when Luke writes, *"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica..."*, he had the Jews in Berea in mind (as v.12 indicates also). What we are unsure of is the extent the troublesome Jews from Thessalonica had in persuading some of the Berean Jews to reject the gospel after believing it.

Still Luke's description of the Bereans in Acts 17:11 is powerful. It portrays the ideal reception of the salvation message of Jesus Christ. The hearers were *"fair-minded."* This is not being gullible; this is a description of their character. They were willing to expose themselves to a message they had not heard before and give it an honest evaluation. They were teachable in that *"they received the word with all readiness."* Furthermore they had mental possession of a high standard to which this new message had to attain. This new word had to harmonize with an already accepted measure: It had to agree with the Old Testament Scriptures. No wonder Paul and Silas had such success in Berea. The power of their evangelistic appeal is found in the fact that they *"reasoned...from the Scriptures"* (Acts 17:2).

But all of this to what end? To discover whether the communique purportedly from God was *"so."* What a terribly significant word is *"so."* When something is so it is true; it corresponds with reality; it describes the nature of being itself. Emily Dickinson wrote, "Truth—

(continued, page 2)

Elders:

Doug Hays
Randy Hysmith
Gary Martin

Paul Norris
Mitchell Spain
Allen Verell
John Verell

Deacons:

David Beach
James Boone
Ken Brodel
Glynn Carden
Mike Casteel
Scott Dahlstrom
Al Earls
Danny Ellis
Jon Ewing
David Forbis
Jimmy Johnson
Lee Johnson

Dwight Jones
Sean Jones
Kevin Martin
John McCadams
Chris Morris
Randall Renfroe
Chad Scott
Stan Shelton
Ben Way
Chris White
Randy White
Joe Witherspoon

Ministers:

Brian Giselbach.....661-1948
email-brian@northjacksonchurchofchrist.com
David Powell.....664-9100
email-dpowell@FHU.edu
Reed Henson.....313-1810
email-reedhenson@yahoo.com
Rafael Barrantes.....267-3287
email-rbarrantes@bellsouth.net
John McCadams..... 803-0862
email-jmccadams@northjacksonchurchofchrist.com

Missionaries

B. S. Brown-Jamaica Hermenegildo Mediana-Peru
Pedro Flores-Peru Patrick Welcome-Guyana
Fernando Estrada-Peru
Jose Alvarez & Cristian Cruz-Santiago, Dominican Rep.

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship.....10:00 A.M./6:00 P.M.
Sunday Hispanic Bible Study.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Hispanic Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.
Wednesday Hispanic Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.
Wednesday Ladies Class.....10:30 A.M.
(September – May)

Church Office
731-664-7811

Information Line
731-660-9000

www.northjacksonchurchofchrist.com
E-mail: info@northjacksonchurchofchrist.com
Missions website: www.njccommissions.com

Dates To Remember

February 7.....	High School Devo
February 8.....	Women Edifying Women
February 12-15.....	Youth/Uplift
February 13.....	Golden Lunch Bunch
February 20.....	Primetimers



FROM REED'S DESK . . .

Walking In A Winter Wonderland . . .

We decided to bundle up and take our son Hagan out for his first encounter with the snow this weekend. I grabbed the camera and Amanda grabbed the boy and out the door we went. The adventure unfolds as the pictures progress. First picture is mother and son happy, looking at the snow, second Hagan in the snow alone, and the last one is of a crying baby! If he could talk I'm pretty sure he would say "Dad, I don't like snow!"

This same progression happens a lot of times with new Christians. We're baptized and we find ourselves safe in the arms of Jesus. Although after a while we want to get down and explore for ourselves, and much like my son, we get overwhelmed by the cold world around us. Luke 15:17-19 - ¹⁷ *But when he came to his senses. . .* ¹⁸ *I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."* Back in his mother's arms our son was once again happy and carefree. When was the last time you were happy and carefree? Maybe it's time to come home - our Father is waiting with arms open wide!

February 7th High School Devo

February 12th-15th Uplift



Congratu- lations to **Tyler & Blair Brewer** on the birth of their daughter on Tuesday, January 26th. She weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces and has been named Journey Lynn. Both mom and baby are doing well.

74th ANNUAL BIBLE LECTURESHIP

February 7th - 12th, 2010
Freed-Hardeman University

Theme:

"Perfecting God's People: Christ and Culture in Corinthians"

(continued from page 1)

is as old as God—His Twin identity; and will endure as long as He, a Co-Eternity." To say that God is, is to say God is so. It is true that God is. The beauty of the Jewish mind that Paul and Silas sought to reach is that there existed a firm belief (acceptance; trust) that God is so and that the Scriptures came from Him, and thus the Scriptures were so as well. As it pertained to Paul and Silas' message the question was: Did their message conform to what they already knew to be so?

Verse 12 gives us our answer. It also answers another question: So what? In one of my preaching classes years ago it was said that every listener to every sermon has the right to ask: So what? Once it is determined that the message is so, the listener must also be told the significance of the message to his or her life. It is not enough for a message to be true, it must be applied.

Those who weighed the gospel in Berea long ago made the decision to believe. They believed it to be true, and they allowed it to affect their lives. The gospel of Jesus Christ, buttressed by the Law and the Prophets, had the power to change lives and save souls many, many years ago. We need this saving, changing power in our lives today. May God help us to be Bereans today. The Scriptures are the Word of the living God. That has not changed. The Scriptures are so. The gospel is so. May we change to fit the message. May we be fair-minded. May we be ready to hear the truth of God. May we be searchers of the Scriptures. And then let us make the investment of faith to the saving of our souls.

Brian Giselbach

BAPTISM

We are so happy to announce that **Anne Stevens** was baptized on Sunday, January 24th. Anne lives at 311 Maddox Drive (05), phone (731) 217-0205 and works for Home Choice in Memphis, Tennessee. Anne is a neighbor to Keith & Tina Jackson and has been attending North Jackson for several weeks. If you have not yet had an opportunity to meet Anne, be sure to do so as soon as possible. Her e-mail address is annecsrn2002@charter.net.

GOLDEN LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday, February 13
@ 12 noon in the fellowship hall
Hosted by Group # 2

WOMEN EDIFYING WOMEN

WEW is scheduled to meet on Monday, February 8th, 7 p.m. at the home of **Katy Myers** (20 Franwood Cove). The lesson on "Happiness" will be presented by **Stephanie Christensen**.

OUR SICK

JACKSON GENERAL: Jim Mahaffy, room 4215 (rehab); **Harold Mayfield**, ICU # 752; **Wayne Green**, room 229 (undergoing tests)
FOREST COVE NURSING CENTER: **Bob McCarty**, room 218
WEST TN. TRANSITIONAL CARE: Arnold Rivers, room 112, father of **Kathy Hopper**
CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR: **Earl Anderson** (undergoing tests); **Isaac Barrantes**; **Sarah Nimmo**; **Jack Seward** (now @ home); **Danny Webb**; **Jason Young** (recovering from recent surgery); **Dean Argetis** (following surgery for a broken leg), father of **Gail Forbis**
Please continue to remember all of our members and member relatives & friends who are dealing with serious illnesses, as well as our shut-ins at home and those in nursing facilities.



To My North Jackson Family,

I want to thank you for all the cards, calls, and especially the prayers. I am truly appreciative for all the love that you continue to show me.

*In Christian love,
Sarah Nimmo*

Dear North Jackson,

A warm note of thanks to say people like you help make the world brighter by the nice things you do! We want to thank you for the cards, visits, and especially your prayers.

*Love,
Doyle & Mary Neal*



MOVING

Charles & Diann Smith are moving to Kentucky to be near their daughter and her family. Their new address is 313 Kelli Rose Way, Lexington, Kentucky 40514. We are truly going to miss them at North Jackson but wish them the best in their new place! We hope they will be back to visit us often.

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

Men, please note that the class will not meet on Tuesday, February 9th, due to the FHU lectureship.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Leon & Mable White will celebrate their "64th" wedding anniversary on February 9th. Congratulations to them on this wonderful occasion!

MEMORIAL GIFT

Group # 2 has made a memorial gift to the North Jackson church of Christ in memory of Paul & Nancy James, brother and sister-in-law of **Linda Hopper**.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to **Donna Favre** and family in the death of her mother, Mary Frances Harber, on Friday, January 29th. Funeral services were on Monday, February 1.

We extend our sympathy to **Linda Hopper** and family in the recent deaths of her brother, Paul James, and sister-in-law, Nancy James. A joint memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 6th, in Paducah, Kentucky. Burial will be at Ridgecrest cemetery in Jackson.

We also express our sympathy to **Joe Witherspoon** and family in the death of his grandmother, Ethel Walker, on January 27th. Funeral services were on January 30th in Rutherford, Tennessee.

DEVOTIONALS

Northbrooke Health Care

Each Thursday @ 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, February 7 @ 4:30 p.m.
(conducted by the Tweens)

Regency Retirement Village

Each Sunday @ 1:00 p.m.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Everyone is cordially invited to a birthday celebration honoring **June Castleberry** on Sunday, February 7, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the home of Mark & Lisa Castleberry.



"LOVING YOUR HUSBANDS" CLASS

The Monday, February 8th class has been changed to Tuesday, February 9th.

CARD MINISTRY

Recipients for this week are:

Oney McCourt
Jean Quinn

Please bring your cards by Wednesday, 2/10.

ICU SNACKS

peanuts
snack cakes/cookies
(individual packages)

GUEST SPEAKER

Brother William Woodson will be speaking on February 10th at North Jackson. We traditionally have a guest speaker during the lectureship week. Following our usual devotional, grades 6 and up will remain in the auditorium.

