



STONEWALL STUDY: Principles of Godly Living and Leadership  
Spotsylvania Presbyterian Church Men's Ministry, Fall 2008.

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## **STONEWALL STUDY: Principles of Godly Living and Leadership**

Spotsylvania Presbyterian Church Men's Ministry, Fall 2008. Leader: Michael Aubrecht.  
Materials: Bible (KJV), Book: Onward Christian Soldier. Course workbook provided.

### **CONTENTS:**

- **INTRODUCTION:** Course, Subject, Materials Overview
- **STONEWALL:** A Brief Overview of the Life of Thomas J. Jackson
- **SYNOPSIS:** 8-Week Course Schedule
- **ATTENDEE GUIDE:** "Stonewall Jackson: A Life of Unconditional Faith"
- **DEVOTIONS:** Excerpts from 'The Southern Cross'

*Beyond fellowship and scripture study, the ultimate goal of this course is to use the life and legacy of Thomas 'Stonewall' Jackson as a character blueprint to help model our lives as Christian men after. A devout faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was the foundation of Jackson's strength, tenacity and genius. Religion gave him courage both on and off the battlefield. Sacrifice and discipline were just two of the virtues that were pillars in the life of this righteous southern hero. His is a story that teaches us lessons about godly principles and leadership. As sinners, we all struggle to conduct ourselves in a way that is pleasing to God. Fortunately we have the wisdom of the Word and the footsteps of those believers, like Thomas Jackson, who came before us to lead the way.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

*Among the many lessons that can be learned from studying the life of 'Stonewall' Jackson, one of the most important is to, live each day boldly without fear, loving and serving the Lord our God in all things, and be prepared to leave this earth for our heavenly home at any time. - Jim Riddle, course developer*

- **Course Overview:** This curriculum was originally developed by/for the Good News Bible Church (NH) for use in their Men's Ministries. The title of the study is "Stonewall Jackson: A Life of Unconditional Faith" and was written by Mr. Jim Riddle. The course consists of both a Leader Guide and Attendee Workbook and was developed to aid discussion groups focusing on Christian principles for lifestyle and leadership. Based on the book "Onward Christian Soldier," this study examines the life and death of Thomas Jackson with a special attention focused on his religious beliefs. In 6 concise lessons, Jackson's spirituality is presented as the foundation for what made him a legend.

The addition of information quoted from "Stonewall Jackson's Book of Maxims" and "Stonewall Jackson - The Man, The Soldier, The Legend," by James I. Robertson, JR. will compliment the study. Each lesson plan includes multiple scripture readings that correlate to each OCS chapter. Questions are also provided at the end of each section that challenge the readers to examine their own lives and how they would react to similar situations. Participants are also called upon to share their own experiences in order to facilitate multiple perspectives on a given topic.

*NOTE: Additional materials have been added to accent the course. This includes devotional excerpts from 'The Southern Cross,' a viewing of 'Still Standing: The Stonewall Jackson Story' and a special field trip to the nearby Jackson Shrine.*

- **Subject:** A dynamic warrior in Biblical times, Joshua led Israel in the conquest of Canaan, vanquishing Jericho and other cities to bring Palestine under Israelite control. Joshua's leadership, with the divine guidance of God, was marked by courage and devotion to the law given to Moses. In the Civil War, another brave warrior felt he was similarly led by Providence. General Thomas Jackson believed that he was God's instrument on Earth. His mission was victory for the Almighty. Through his strong faith, he reinforced the resolve and beliefs of fellow Southerners as he shepherded his followers into battle. This program teaches what it truly means to be a prayer warrior, and shows us how we too can serve as Christian soldiers in the army of the Lord.
- **About the Book:** "Onward Christian Soldier: The Spiritual Journey of Stonewall" is a religious-vignette (bio) on General Thomas Jonathan Jackson. It is a story about faith. A story filled with the kinds of heartache and hardships that would leave many of us questioning our own beliefs. It is a love story that is filled with sorrow, testimony, hope and despair. It is a story that reaffirms the power of prayer and that all things in Him are possible. Ultimately, it is the story of a man who suffered, but chose to embrace the Will of his Savior as the foundation for a legendary life.

10 concise chapters present Jackson's: Difficult childhood and tragic family history, Experiences and struggles as a student at West Point, Success in the field while serving in the Mexican conflicts, Experience as a professor at the Virginia Military Institute, Philosophy and strategy for training Confederate recruits, Service and initial struggles in the Presbyterian Church, Prayer studies, Deacon and Sunday School contributions, Petitions and efforts for the appointment of CSA chaplains, Battlefield exploits, victories and failures in the field, Impact on the morale and spiritual conversion of his troops, Untimely death and its affect on the south's war efforts, The book also features a variety of quotes, letters and newspaper articles including what is considered to be the most accurate report of his last days as written by his personal surgeon Dr. Hunter McGuire. *For more information, visit [www.pinstripepress.net](http://www.pinstripepress.net)*

- **About the DVD:** "Still Standing: The Stonewall Jackson Story" presents an intimate portrait of a man of resolute Christian character. Through stunning High Definition videography and expert narrative, *Still Standing* traces the life of 'Stonewall' Jackson from his orphaned childhood, to the Sunday School class he taught for African Americans that has resulted in a lasting impact today, to the pivotal role he played as a Confederate general in the Civil War. *Still Standing* inspires, entertains, and educates as it examines the life of a uniquely American hero. *For more information, visit [www.franklinsprings.com/films/stillstanding](http://www.franklinsprings.com/films/stillstanding)*
- **About the Shrine:** The "Stonewall Jackson Shrine" is the plantation office building where General Jackson died. The office was one of several outbuildings on Thomas

C. Chandler's 740-acre plantation named "Fairfield." Today, the office is the only plantation structure remaining. The Chandler house burned at some point after the Civil War, and its shell was dismantled in the early 1900's. Once established as an historic shrine, the office underwent restorations in the 1920's and the 1960's, and still retains about 45% original fabric. The National Park Service has augmented some of the items used during Jackson's stay with other pieces from the era, along with a few reproductions, to recreate the scene of those tragic last days of his life. *For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/frsp/js.htm](http://www.nps.gov/frsp/js.htm)*

### **STONEWALL: A Brief Overview of the Life of Thomas J. Jackson**

Excerpts from The Jackson Society portal-site (Michael Albrecht, 2006)

Regarded as one of the greatest commanders in American military history, Thomas Jonathan Jackson is also considered to be one of the most righteous, inspirational, and eccentric of all the Confederacy's leaders.

Raised by Episcopalian relatives following the untimely deaths of both his father and mother, he joined the Presbyterian Church in the early 1850s and later became a deacon who generously donated one tenth of his earnings to the church. Eager to share his renewed faith with all people, Jackson started a Sunday school in Lexington, Virginia for African-Americans and proudly practiced civil disobedience while teaching black children the ways of salvation. Although he could not alter the social status of slaves, he committed himself to Christian decency and pledged to "assist the souls of those held in bondage." Eventually the Sunday school grew beyond the allotted facilities and ultimately blossomed into new churches for African-Americans. As a result, many ex-slaves became preachers themselves and were later responsible for some of the largest religious revivals that followed the South's surrender.

Despite his patriotic devotion as a career military man, Jackson maintained that his first duty was always that of a soldier in what he referred to as "The Army of the Lord". After graduating 17th (out of 59) in his class at West Point, he served in the Mexican War before accepting a teaching position at the Virginia Military Institute. Specializing in "Natural Physics" Jackson established the reputation as a brilliant artillery commander and was personally selected by General Robert E. Lee to command a company of VMI cadets. Distraught over the North's impending invasion of the South, he swore his allegiance to the Army of the Shenandoah (later assumed by the Army of Northern Virginia) and vowed to fight for God and country to the bitter end. Duty however, did not stifle his religious convictions and many members of his brigade were quickly indoctrinated with their commander's infectious faith.

Much to Jackson's dismay, most armies during the beginning of the War Between the States did not commonly deploy with embedded clergy. Clearly, this Christian general recognized the need for spiritual strengthening and that a healthy soul meant healthy troops. He was one of the South's first high-ranking officers to personally lobby the Confederate Government for chaplains, arguing that a soldier's mental state of mind directly affected his ability to perform on the battlefield. Jackson also regularly put forth

an effort to introduce this philosophy to the rest of the Confederate Army. Whenever possible, a strict schedule of morning and evening worship on the Sabbath, as well as Wednesday prayer meetings, was adhered to at all costs. One of our local Fredericksburg preachers, the chaplain Reverend Tucker Lacy routinely led the services, which were often attended by General Lee and his staff.

Perhaps best known as “Stonewall”, Jackson earned his nickname at the First Battle of Manassas (aka First Bull Run), after refusing to withdraw his troops in the face of total carnage. After Brigadier General Barnard Bee informed him that his forces were being beaten back, Jackson replied, “Sir, we will give them the bayonet.” Inspired by the bravery of his subordinate, General Bee immediately rallied the remnants of his brigade while shouting “There is Jackson standing like a stone wall. Let us determine to die here, and we will conquer.” A devout believer in predestination, Jackson insisted that God had already determined his time on earth and that no spot on the battlefield was safer than the other. It was this unwavering conviction that enabled him to lead his troops into battle without the fear of death and inspire countless others to rally behind him.

Courage however, could not hide his obvious distaste for war and regardless of victory; Jackson remained committed to ending the conflict as soon as possible. Preaching a harsh philosophy of swift and total destruction, Jackson believed that the sooner an enemy force was destroyed - the less lives would ultimately be lost. He referred to this action as “the black flag” and reminded his officers that regardless of their orders, duty was theirs – the consequences were God’s.

During the Shenandoah Campaign of 1862, Jackson repeatedly proved himself to be a brilliant strategist, but still found time to hold Bible study and hymnal sessions with the senior officers of his brigade. Despite being an “academic”, he resisted the urge to glorify war and routinely quoted “battle accounts” taken from the Bible in place of his own reports. Always eager to share his relationship with the Father, Jackson wrote letter after letter urging his countrymen (and women) to actively seek repentance. One letter, written to his sister, summarized his faith:

*You wish to know how to come to God; so as to have your sins forgiven, and to receive “the inheritance which is incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.” Now my dear sister the way is plain: the savior says in Mark XVI chapter, 16th verse “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” But you may ask what is it to believe. To explain this I will quote from an able theologian, and devoted servant of God. To believe in the sense in which the word is used here, “is feeling and acting as if there were a God, a Heaven, a Hell; as if we were sinners and must die; as if we deserve eternal death, and were in danger of it. And in view of all, casting our eternal interests on the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. To do this is to be a Christian.”*

Always a teacher, Jackson dedicated almost every waking moment (that did not require his military service) to educating the uneducated, uplifting the downtrodden and introducing those around him to the glory of God. His popularity with the troops also enabled him to reach them in ways that other men could not and he was often found

praying with the wounded at their bedside. After a series of tremendous victories, the Confederacy appeared to be well on its way to declaring independence. However, the fortunes of war would quickly turn in the Union's favor after the sudden and accidental death of the general they called "Stonewall."

On May 2, 1863, during the battle of Chancellorsville, Jackson's own men accidentally fired upon him resulting in three wounds and an amputated arm. Initially, he looked to make a full recovery, but he later developed an incurable case of pneumonia. After a few days, it was a foregone conclusion that death was drawing near. Upon hearing his prognosis, Jackson replied that he had always wanted to die on a Sunday and that, "It will be infinite gain to be translated to Heaven." He then asked his wife to pray for him but to always use the petition of "Thy Will Be Done." In the end, he clearly accepted his fate as part of God's divine plan and resolved to spend his last hours before delirium set in, reading the Bible and contemplating his next journey.

A few moments before he died, he cried out, "Order A. P. Hill to prepare for action!" Then a smile spread over his face, and he quietly whispered his last words saying, "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees." Finally, without the slightest sign of pain or discomfort, his spirit passed with open arms back to God, who was most certainly awaiting his arrival. He was 39 years old.

Much more than just a general, Thomas Jackson was a true believer, who lived everyday for the glory of God. In the end, perhaps this Christian soldier's biggest victory was not in defeating his foes on the battlefield, but in convincing others to surrender their lives to the Lord.

## **SYNOPSIS:**

*As a fifth grade teacher in Spotsylvania, I have tried, with God's help, to expose my students to as many genuine historical perspectives as reasonably possible. ...Onward Christian Soldier, depicts in straightforward fashion the importance faith in Jesus Christ had in the life and death of Stonewall Jackson. - Geoffrey McCabe, VA teacher*

- **Week 1: Introduction to Course:** Overview of Riddle curriculum, Author's conception for book. Topic: Definition of Unconditional: Without conditions or limitations: absolute. DVD viewing "Still Standing: The Stonewall Jackson Story." Distribute books and workbooks. *Readings: Romans 8:28, 2 Corinthians: 5:1-5:21*
- **Week 2: Thoughts from Chapter 1 (1824-1842):** Question: What and who are the bases of Thomas Jackson's Foundation? Lesson 1: We all carry the memory of wounds we have suffered through our lives. The love we receive and the values instilled at an early age, combined with God's healing power will determine how ugly and visible the scars that remain and how we allow them to define our character. *Readings: Proverbs 10:16, Proverbs 28:1, Proverbs 22:29, Joshua 10:25*

- **Week 3: Thoughts from Chapter 2 (1842-1851):** Question: What were some of Thomas Jackson's character trait(s) that were observed in this chapter? Lesson 2: Be not discouraged by disappointments and difficulties, but on the contrary, let each stimulate you to greater exertions for attaining noble ends and an approving conscience at least will be your reward. *Readings: Psalm 116:15, Proverbs 14:26, Proverbs 30:5, Proverbs 22:6, Psalm 28:8, Psalm 46:1-2*
- **Week 4: Thoughts from Chapter 3 (1851-1856):** Question: What do you think Stonewall meant by "To eradicate ambition", in respect to Elinor's death? Lesson 3: With church affiliation, Jackson underwent an instant and remarkable change. No other single event in his life equaled the impact on mind, soul and action, as did the acceptance of God through Presbyterianism. Indeed, Jackson did not accept this religion: he absorbed it --- hungrily, constantly, totally. *Readings: Proverbs 10:16, Proverbs 28:1, Proverbs 22:29, Joshua 10:25*
- **Week 5: Thoughts from Chapter 4 (Jackson, Prayer Warrior):** Question: Recall the event where General Richard S. Ewell observed Jackson in his tent on his knees praying. "If that is religion, I must have it." on Page 31. Lesson 4: A most personal and valuable lesson. Do not give into your fears of public prayer and speaking. Allow God to give you the voice and confidence to honor him. *Readings: Philippians 2:3-4, Proverbs 3:6, Revelation 21:4, Romans 8:28*
- **Week 6: Thoughts from Chapter 5 (1856-1861):** Question 1: How should the word 'absolute' guide us in our conduct and activities as Christians? Question 2: What qualities should one seek in a marriage partner? Question 3: The clouds of war are gathering. Was the root cause one of slavery, states rights, a religious nature, or a combination of all? Lesson 5: Unconditional faith and complete trust in the Lord conquers all vices, blesses us with joy and happiness where only darkness once appeared, and gives strength and courage in times of adversity. *Readings: Philippians 4:6-7, Psalm 27:1-3*
- **Week 7: Thoughts from Chapters 6-10 (Civil War begins and Jackson's parallels to Joshua):** Question 1: What does the term "Black Flag" and "Give no quarter to the enemy mean?" Question 2: Approximately how many times did Joshua "Give no quarter to the enemy?" Lesson 6: Live each day boldly without fear, loving and serving the Lord our God in all things, and be prepared to leave this earth for our heavenly home at any time. *Readings: Joshua 1:7, Joshua 3:9-10, Joshua 6:10, Joshua 10:9-10, Joshua 10:19, Joshua 6:21, Joshua 8:22, Joshua 10:19*
- **Week 8: Field trip to Stonewall Jackson Shrine:** Meet at SPC and carpool to Guinea Station. Walk-in NPS tour of building and grounds with talk to follow. Read quotes following Jackson's death. Discuss Stonewall's legacy and impact as a Christian first and a soldier second. Discuss lessons learned and how we can apply them in our own daily lives. Q&A/wrap-up. *Final Reading: Timothy 3:1-3:7*

**LEADER-GUIDE FOLLOWS...**

# Stonewall Jackson a Life of Unconditional Faith

Study Guide:

**Onward Christian Soldier**

*The Spiritual Journey of Stonewall*

Michael Aubrecht

**(Leader)** “Let us cross the river and rest in the shade of the trees,” - Opening thoughts following the movie scenes.

**(Leader) Definition of Unconditional:** Without conditions or limitations; **absolute:**

**(Leader)** A dynamic warrior in Biblical times, Joshua led Israel in the conquest of Canaan, vanquishing Jericho and other cities to bring Palestine under Israelite control. Joshua’s leadership, with the divine guidance of God, was marked by courage and devotion to the law given to Moses.

In the Civil War, another brave warrior felt he was similarly led by Providence. Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson believed he was God’s instrument on Earth, and God was watching his every move. His mission was victory for the Almighty. To Jackson, there were no shades of gray: You either obeyed or disobeyed; you were either a God-fearing man or you were not. Through his strong faith, he reinforced the resolve and beliefs of fellow Southerners as he shepherded his followers into battle. (May I Quote You, Stonewall Jackson? Randall Bedwell)

## Thoughts from Chapter 1. (1824 – 1842)

**Question:** What and who are the bases of Thomas Jackson’s Foundation?

### Traumatic events that occurred in the first 17 years of Thomas Jackson's life:

Age 2 the death of his sister followed 3 weeks later by the death of his father

Ages 2 – 7 Witness his mother's illness, and marriage to an uncommitted step-father

Age 7 sent away by his mother to live with an unknown uncle

Age 7 the death of his mother

Age 8 1/2 the death of his stepfather

Age 17 the death of his only brother

### **(Leader) Stonewall Jackson’s Book of Maxims – Edited by James I. Robertson JR.**

Loneliness and solitude were the lad’s closet companions through the formative years. The result was a boy who was shy, withdrawn, reticent. In many ways Tom Jackson was never a child; in many ways he was also the little unloved boy whose only defense in later life was to avoid close relationships that might cause him further unhappiness.

### **The death of a parent, brother or sister may cause a child or young person to feel some or all of the following:**

- deep sadness, that may or may not be expressed in conventional ways such as crying
- a hollow, achy pain inside that is hard to put into words and may be described as hunger, boredom, fear or often feeling sick.
- loneliness and a sense of having been abandoned
- anxiety about the safety and well-being of the rest of the family, especially the surviving parent and including themselves
- that they have to become more responsible – ‘man of the house now’
- that there’s no point in anything any more, including school work
- anger and even rage at what has happened

**Question:** Would these events have scarred you for life, what was Thomas Jackson’s saving grace?

**(Leader) Present Jackson’s Mother theory.** It is my belief that Thomas Jackson’s mother was the base for his faith, his character, his quiet nature, and determined life style.



With a mixture of love and sympathy, Thomas looked on his mother as life itself. General Robert E. Lee would observe many years later of Jackson: “The early instructions of his mother, whom he seems never to have forgotten . . . had great influence in shaping his course through life. (“Stonewall Jackson” – The Man, The Soldier, The Legend, James I. Robertson, JR.)

Saying goodbye to his mother was one of the hardest things young Tom would ever have to do. He adored his mother and it broke his heart to be torn away from her. (StonewallCountry.com)

Give me a child for the first seven years, and you may do what you like with him afterwards. Author: Anonymous

**(Leader)** Share a scar!

***Stonewall Lesson 1:*** We all carry the memory of wounds we have suffered through our lives. The love we receive and the values instilled at an early age, combined with God’s healing power will determine how ugly and visible the scars that remain and how we allow them to define our character.

***Scripture that may have inspired young Thomas Jackson:***

**Psalm 116:15 (NKJV)**

Precious in the sight of the LORD *Is* the death of His saints.

**Proverbs 14:26 (NKJV)**

In the fear of the LORD *there is* strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

**Proverbs 30:5 (NKJV)**

Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

**Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)**

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

**Psalm 28:8 (NKJV)**

The LORD *is* their strength, And He *is* the saving refuge of His anointed.

**Thoughts from Chapter 2.** (1842-1851)

**Question:** What were some of Thomas Jackson’s character trait(s) that were observed in this chapter?

- **Entry into Westpoint** *Determination/Strong Will* ► **Mexican War** *Courage* ► **Faith takes root**
- From an uncertain and bleak future as a young man of 18 to an appointment to West Point, Jackson’s life and destiny had been defined.

A prime example: God’s provision can be witnessed throughout the life of Stonewall Jackson through his entry into the West Point Military Academy.

**(Leader)** Attending West Point had become the most important goal for Thomas Jackson. At the time in his town there were 4 applicants for the congressional appointment. After the screening and examination process, the appointment was awarded to Gibson J. Butcher. Losing the appointment was devastating to Jackson. However 24 hours after Butcher had arrived at West Point, he was on his way back home. Through citizen petition, and the hand of God, Jackson was awarded the vacant appointment.

- Through iron willed determination, and long hours of study Jackson graduated 17<sup>th</sup> in his class of 59 cadets.
- Jackson’s mettle is tested in battle during the Mexican War.

**(Leader)** Jackson recalled those moments a few years later: “I was ordered to advance with a section of my battery upon a road swept by the fire of six or eight pieces of Mexican artillery at very short range. It was ticklish work, but there was nothing to be done but **to obey orders**. So I went on. As soon as [we] debouched into the main road, the

Mexicans opened fire, and at the first discharge, killed or disabled every one of the twelve horses of my two guns. We unlimbered, however, and returned their fire.”

Precisely at that moment, Lieutenant George H. Gordon and a body of cavalry rode into the area. Gordon was another of Jackson’s West Point classmates. “Never”, he stated, “shall I forget the woe-begone appearance Jackson bore, as he stood gazing at the corpses of six horses in harness attached to the foremost piece of his section. As our squadron galloped by, I had just time to salute him with: ‘Well, Old Jack, it seems to me you are in a bad way!’ and, amid the clanging of the sabers and clamor of hoofs, catch his reply of: ‘Pears I am!’”

One of Jackson’s guns was damaged to the point where it could not be moved; most of the horses were dead or dying; demoralized gunners had fled for cover behind rocks and bushes. Everyone was on the edge of panic except Jackson. He paced back and forth in the road while bullets kicked up dirt and ricocheted off boulders. “There is no danger!” he kept shouting to his scattered men. “See? I am not hit!” The men were unconvinced. So was Jackson. Later in life, he admitted that the statement was the only lie he knowingly told.  
 (“Stonewall Jackson” – The Man, The Soldier, The Legend, James I. Robertson, JR.)

- The roots of Jackson’s faith are believed to have been instilled by his mother; however Captain Francis Taylor commander of the First Artillery Regiment during the Mexican War was his spiritual mentor and considered the first person to speak seriously of religion.

The seeds of an active faith were now sown. Jackson read the Bible; he prayed; he meditated; he examined the nooks and crannies of scriptures and his own soul. In doing so, he began to undergo a change that would eventually create the very foundation of his being. (“Stonewall Jackson” – The Man, The Soldier, The Legend, James I. Robertson, JR.)

***Stonewall Lesson 2:*** Be not discouraged by disappointments & difficulties but on the contrary let each stimulate you to greater exertions for attaining noble ends & an approving conscience at least will be your reward.  
 (From a Letter fragment Jackson to Laura Arnold (sister) Date: 1844 Sept 8)

***Scripture that may have inspired Cadet and Lieutenant Jackson:***

**Proverbs 10:16**

The labor of the **righteous** leads to life, The wages of the **wicked** to sin.

**Proverbs 28:1**

The **wicked** flee when no one pursues, But the **righteous** are bold as a lion.

**Proverbs 22:29**

Do you see a man who **excels** in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men.

**Joshua 10:25**

Then Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be **strong** and of good **courage**, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.”

**Thoughts from Chapter 3.** (1851-1856)

From Thomas Jackson’s list of maxims:      Objects to be affected by Ellie’s Death:  
    To eradicate ambition  
    To eradicate resentment  
    To produce humility

**Question:** What do you think Stonewall meant by “To eradicate ambition”, in respect to Elinor’s death?

**(Leader)** (NKJV) Philippians 2:3-4 *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

- Life changing events described within this chapter

➤ Jackson is examined and accepted into membership with the Lexington Presbyterian Church

**(Leader)** With church affiliation, Jackson underwent an instant and remarkable change. No other single event in his life equaled the impact on mind, soul and action as did the acceptance of God through Presbyterianism. Indeed, Jackson did not accept this religion: he absorbed it --- hungrily, constantly, totally.

➤ Loss of his Bride of only 14 months, and his unborn son.

**(Leader)** On the day after the death of Ellie and the baby, Jackson told his sister Laura of the dual tragedy. "I have been called to pass through the deep waters of affliction, but all has been satisfied," he wrote. "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord. It is his will that my Dearest wife and child should not longer abide with me, and as it is His holy will, I am perfectly reconciled to the sad bereavement, though I deeply mourn my loss. My Dearest Ellie breathed her last on Sunday evening, the same day on which the child was born dead. Oh! The consolations of religion! I can willingly submit to anything if God strengthens me. Oh! My Sister would that you could have Him for your God! Though all nature to me is eclipsed, yet I have joy in knowing that God withholds no good things from them that love and keep His commandments. And he will overrule this *Sad, Sad* bereavement for good."

- Scripture references are no longer speculation nearly all correspondence reference God's presence, grace and life beyond this earth.

(Prior to Elinor and his son's death)

#### **Proverbs 3:6 (KJV)**

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

I endeavor to live in accordance with the above passage which means as I understand it, in all thy ways acknowledge God and he shall take care of you in all respects. What better protector can we desire that one who is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent and who hath promised that he will take care of us in all things, and in addition to all this the pledge coming from One who cannot lie. (VMI.edu Archives/Jackson Letter TJJ to his sister, Laura Arnold Date: 1853 February 1 - Place: Lexington, Virginia)

***Stonewall Lesson 3:*** "I then learned an important lesson: that one who has been the subject of converting grace and is the child of God can, in the midst of the severest sufferings, fix his thoughts upon God and heavenly things, and derive great comfort and peace; but that one who had never made his peace with God would be unable to control his mind, under such sufferings, so as to understand properly the way of salvation, and repent and believe on Christ." --Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson

#### **Underlined Scripture within Professor Jackson's Bible:**

##### **Revelation 21:4**

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more **death**, nor **sorrow**, nor **crying**. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

##### **Romans 8:28**

And we know that all things **work together** for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

#### **Thoughts from Chapter 4.**

- Thomas Jackson, Prayer Warrior!
  - He arose each morning at 6:00am and knelt for private prayers.
  - At precisely 7:00am, family prayers took place.
  - Jackson "said grace at every meal, with both hands uplifted, and with "childlike simplicity and earnestness."

- First attention went to the Bible, which he read daily with the same intensity as he prepared for classes.
- Jackson maintained daily prayer rituals whether in camp or on the march.

**(Leader)** Recall the event where General Richard S. Ewell observed Jackson in his tent on his knees praying. “If that is religion, I must have it.” – Page 31.

- Thomas Jackson, Public Speaker

Realizing his limitations and fear of public speaking Jackson joined the “Franklin Society”, a literary association in Lexington. His first attempts resulted in confused thoughts and long periods of silence. Although extremely embarrassing he would not give in to his fears and continued until the fear was conquered. History has proven that Jackson could deliver extremely passionate and articulate speeches. **Determination!**

**Stonewall Lesson 4:** A most personal and valuable lesson. Do not give into your fears of public prayer and speaking. Allow God to give you the voice and confidence to honor him.

#### Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

#### **Thoughts from Chapter 5.** (1856-1861)

**Unconditional:** Without conditions or limitations; absolute:

**Question:** How should the word absolute guide us in our conduct and activities as Christians?

- There were no shades of gray with Jackson; his life style was strict and well defined:
  - He did not drink
  - He did not use tobacco “in any form”
  - He did not gamble
  - He ceased his enjoyment of dancing
  - He would abstain from theaters (Today’s Television?)
  - All amusements that he felt would distract his thought from holy things
  - The Sabbath was reserved for only holy thoughts, activities, and conversation
  - He practiced 10% tithing

**Question:** What qualities should one seek in a marriage partner?

- During this period of Jackson’s life he was ready to fill the void left by Elinor’s passing. No doubt companionship was a motivator, but perhaps it was Anna Morrison’s ability to complete any scripture passage that he would start.

First paragraph of a letter from Jackson to Anna prior to their marriage.

“It is a great comfort to me to know that although I am not with you, yet you are in the hands of One who will not permit any evil to come nigh you. What a consoling thought it is to know that we may, with perfect confidence, commit all our friends in Jesus to the care of our Heavenly Father, with an assurance that all will be well with them!”

**(Leader)** Complete this thought with the loss of their first child Mary Graham – Marriage, home in Lexington, great happiness, 2<sup>nd</sup> child lost at birth. (Mary Graham)

**Question:** The clouds of war are gathering. Was the root cause one of slavery, states rights or a religious nature?

**(Leader)** Like many men of the South in 1860, Jackson was convinced that Northerners had violated principles of both the Founding Fathers and Christianity by attempting to create a new society that lacked order as well as cohesiveness. The North seemed to be striving to alter basic American structures. Such activity flew in the face of God's preordained notion of what America should be. If the South did not resist, it would stand in failure of God's will and possibly become subservient to Northern domination. Thus, in the words of a recent writer, much of the Confederate ideology to which Jackson subscribed "transformed God himself into a nationalist and made war for political independence into a crusade." Drew Gilpin Faust Dean of the Radcliffe Institute and Lincoln Professor of History in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences ("Stonewall Jackson" – The Man, The Soldier, The Legend, James I. Robertson, JR.)

***Stonewall Lesson 5:*** "Unconditional faith and complete trust in the Lord conquers all vices, blesses us with joy and happiness where only darkness once appeared, and gives strength and courage in times of adversity.

#### **Psalm 27:1-3**

The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? <sup>2</sup>When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell.

<sup>3</sup> Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I *will* be confident.

### **Thoughts from Chapter 6 - 10.**

#### **--War begins & Jackson's Parallels to Joshua**

**(Leader)** Jackson cited Joshua for the way a commander should write his battle reports saying, "Look at Joshua... brevity, fairness, modesty, and he traces the victory to its proper source – the blessing of God."

- War made no exceptions in the faith and spiritual commitments of Stonewall Jackson. He saw to it that Sabbath services were held along with Bible study, prayer meetings, and his own personal tithing.
- Of all of the Centurion characteristics that we have studied, Jackson possessed **bold, fearless, and up front** leadership.

"Never take counsel of your fears" – Stonewall Jackson

"It was the fear of God that made him so fearless of all else" - R.L. Dabney

#### **Joshua 1:7 (NKJV)**

Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. <sup>9</sup>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

- Spiritual preparation was a major concern to Jackson, and he believed that regular prayer was essential in "mentally surviving" the war.
- Jackson appointed a personal minister to his staff, and maintained daily prayer rituals whether in camp or on the march.

#### **Joshua 3:9-10 (NKJV)**

Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the Lord your God." <sup>10</sup>And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites:

- Jackson was known for his aggressiveness in battle, surprise flanking maneuvers, and secrecy while marching and positioning his troops.

“Sir, we’ll give them the bayonet then.” – Stonewall Jackson

“If I can deceive my own friends, I can make certain of deceiving the enemy.” – Stonewall Jackson

“Charge, men and yell like flurries!” – Stonewall Jackson

#### **Joshua 6:10 (NKJV)**

Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, “You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, ‘Shout!’ Then you shall shout.”

“I yield to no man sympathy for the gallant men under my command; but I am obliged to sweat them tonight, that I may save their blood tomorrow.” – Stonewall Jackson

“The hardships of forced marches are often more painful than the dangers of battle.” – Stonewall Jackson

#### **Joshua 10:9-10 (NKJV)**

Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal. <sup>10</sup>So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah.

“Once you get them running, you can stay on top of them, and that way a small force can defeat a large on every time.” – Stonewall Jackson

#### **Joshua 10:19 (NKJV)**

And do not stay *there* yourselves, *but* pursue your enemies, and attack their rear *guard*. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand.”

**Question:** What does the term “Black Flag & “Give no quarter to the enemy mean”?

**Question:** Approximately how many times did Joshua “Give no quarter to the enemy”?

#### **Joshua 6:21 (NKJV)**

And they utterly destroyed all that *was* in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

#### **Joshua 8:22 (NKJV)**

Then the others came out of the city against them; so they were *caught* in the midst of Israel, some on this side and some on that side. And they struck them down, so that they let none of them remain or escape.

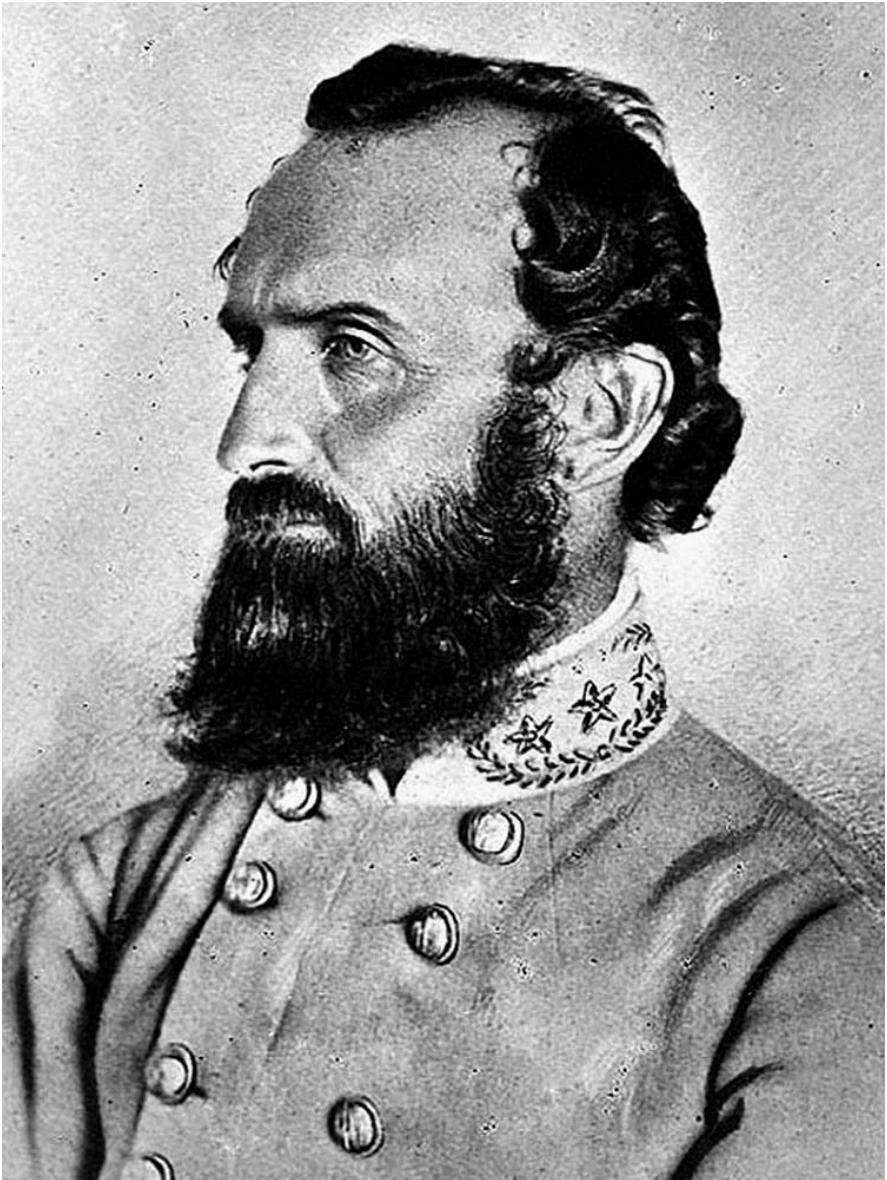
#### **Joshua 10:19 (NKJV)**

And do not stay *there* yourselves, *but* pursue your enemies, and attack their rear *guard*. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand.”

..... and many more.

***Stonewall Lesson 6:*** Live each day boldly without fear, loving and serving the Lord our God in all things, and be prepared to leave this earth for our heavenly home at any time.

“You see me severely wounded, but not depressed—not unhappy. I believe it has been done according to God’s holy will, and I acquiesce entirely in it. You may think it strange; but you never saw me more perfectly contented than I am today; for I am sure that my Heavenly Father designs this affliction for my good. I am perfectly satisfied that either in this life, or in that which is to come, I shall discover that what is now regarded as a calamity is a blessing.”



*Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee:  
be of good courage, and do it. (Ezra 10:4)*





*And Thou knowest O' Lord, that when Thou didst decide that the Confederacy should not succeed, Thou hadst first to remove Thy servant, Stonewall Jackson. – Father Hubert, of Hay's Brigade*

## Thy Will Be Done

After a series of tremendous victories, the Confederacy appeared to be well on its way to declaring independence. However, the fortunes of war quickly turned in the Union's favor after the sudden and accidental death of the general they called "Stonewall." On May 2, 1863, during the battle of Chancellorsville, Jackson's own men of the 18th North Carolina Infantry Regiment accidentally fired upon him, resulting in three wounds, and later, an amputated arm.

The accident occurred after the general and his staff trotted beyond their own picket lines in search of the retreating enemy's position. Jackson was quickly taken from the field on a stretcher and treated at a nearby hospital encampment at Wilderness Run. Initially, it seemed the wounded general would make a full recovery, but he later developed a fatal case of pneumonia.

Upon hearing his own prognosis, Jackson showed incredible courage and replied that he had always wanted to die on a Sunday. He said, "It will be infinite gain to be translated to Heaven." He then asked his wife to pray for him, but to always use the petition of "Thy will be done." In the end, he clearly accepted his fate as part of God's "Divine Plan," and resolved to spend his last hours before delirium set in, reading from the Holy Bible. The unwavering faith and spiritual strength that he maintained, even while on his deathbed, was a peaceful and tranquil gift amidst the madness of war.

Those present—his wife, doctor, preacher and comrades—were the most important people in Thomas Jackson's life. Their love for him and his Lord comforted them all. A few moments before he died, Jackson cried out, "Order A. P. Hill to prepare for action!" Then a smile spread over his face, and he whispered his last words saying, "Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees." It was a glorious finale to a glorious life.



*That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles,  
ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might  
be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. (Romans 15:16)*



*It was a noble sight to see there those who led our armies to victory and upon whom the eyes of the nation are turned with admiration and gratitude, melted in tears at the story of the cross and the exhibition of the love of God to the repenting and return sinner. – Thomas Jackson recalling the success of the Reverend Lacy’s ministry*

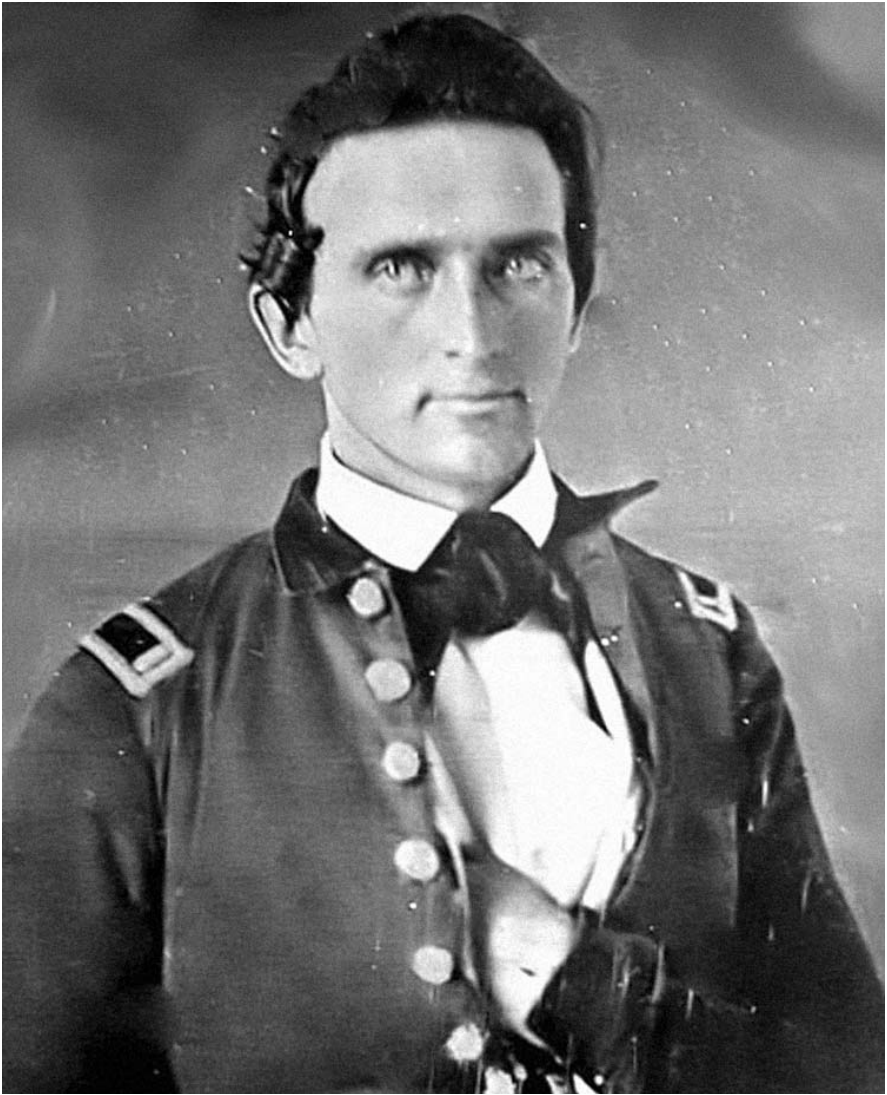
## The Good Shepherd

Despite the lack of readily available clergymen in the early Confederate States Army, several of the South’s more pious commanders, including General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, appointed personal ministers to their staff and maintained daily prayer rituals whether in camp or on the march. One of the local Fredericksburg Presbyterian preachers, the Reverend Beverly Tucker Lacy, was appointed as the staff chaplain for Jackson and his Second Corps.

Answering the call of duty, the minister routinely led the worship services for the entire camp, which were often attended by General Lee and his staff. Reverend Lacy’s energizing speeches quickly became a popular event for saved and unsaved soldiers alike who attended his sermons by the thousands.

It was Reverend Lacy who was also present with General Jackson after his tragic wounding at the Battle of Chancellorsville and it was he who took Jackson’s amputated arm to his brother’s farm in Ellwood Plantation for burial. After Jackson’s death, the Reverend stayed on with the Second Corps as headquarters chaplain under Lieutenant General Richard Ewell. The tidal wave of questions that asked God’s reasons for taking Jackson rolled over the “Stonewall Brigade,” leaving a state of doubt and depression in its wake.

Reverend Lacy did his best to comfort the troops, believing that God intended to emphasize Jackson’s Christian and military virtues by taking him at the height of his career. He agreed with his peers that God desired to teach the South to trust in no man, but in God alone. He also added that perhaps God was disciplining Southerners for their sins (including the sin of idolizing Jackson), but that the South would, in time, regain divine favor.



*And this is the charge of their burden, according to all  
their service in the tabernacle of the congregation; the boards of  
the tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof,  
and sockets thereof. (Numbers 4:31)*



*It was my privilege to hear him pray several times in the army  
and if I ever heard a fervent effectual prayer, it was offered by this  
stern soldier.* – Dr. William S. White

## Pledge To Pray

After converting from a non-practicing Episcopalian to an eager Presbyterian, Thomas Jackson met the man who would eventually become his spiritual mentor, the Reverend Dr. William S. White, of the Lexington Presbyterian Church. The good reverend recognized Jackson's thirst for religion and provided him with a tremendous wealth of guidance and knowledge in the ways of practicing faith.

One Sunday during the sermon, the Reverend White suggested that every male member of the congregation should make an effort to lead his fellow worshippers in public prayer. Still relatively new to the church, Jackson was put off by this notion and did not feel he was either ready or worthy to fulfill such an important obligation.

Dr. White later recalled the ensuing conversation between Jackson and a church elder regarding his reluctance. He stated that the next day, a faithful elder of the church asked Major Jackson what he thought of the doctrine of the sermon and if he was not convinced that he ought to lead in public prayer. He replied, "I do not think it (is) my duty." Soon after, he was called on and made such a stammering effort that the pastor felt badly for him and Thomas was greatly mortified. Several subsequent efforts resulted in little improvement.

Despite this, Jackson vehemently pledged to the reverend that he would fulfill this duty. "My comfort has nothing in the world to do with it, sir. You, as my pastor, think that it is my duty to lead in public prayer—I think so too—and by God's grace I mean to do it. I wish you would please be so good as to call on me more frequently." Dr. White said that he saw from Jackson's reply and manner that he meant to succeed and that he gradually improved until he became one of the most gifted men in prayer in his church.



*Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. (1 Samuel 12:24)*



*This strength General Jackson eminently possessed. He walked in the fear of God, with a perfect heart, keeping all His commandments and ordinances, blameless. Never has it been my happiness to know one of greater purity of life, or more regular and devout habits of prayer.*

— Reverend R. L. Dabney, D.D., Theological Seminary, Va.

## The Bible Brigade

**T**hroughout the course of history, the influence of the Bible has ended wars between empires and liberated nations. Therefore, it is no surprise that many of the world's greatest political leaders and military generals relied heavily on its passages for wisdom and truth. One of these generals was a devout and fervent student of the Word named Thomas Jackson. In addition to being among the greatest of all Confederate commanders, Jackson was also a Presbyterian deacon and one of the founding members of the Rockbridge Bible Society. As the chairman of the society's Board of Managers, he took on the responsibility of fundraising for the printing of Gospel literature.

Among Jackson's many favorite Bible verses was the Fifth Chapter of Second Corinthians, which was recorded as the last scripture that he shared with his wife before going off to serve his God and country. It states, "For we know that if the earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Another cherished verse was Romans 8:28 which states, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [His] purpose."

When deployed in the field, Jackson maintained his obedient study schedule to the best of his ability. He remained a steadfast prayer warrior who began every day, at the first sign of dawn, strengthening his faith and pledging that Jesus Christ alone was his Savior and the only key to his salvation. It was this "daily bread" that spiritually nourished Jackson and ultimately gave him the courage and strength to become the legendary man we refer to as "Stonewall."



*Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. (Joshua 24:14)*





*Let us cross over the river and rest under the  
shade of the trees.* – Last words of Thomas Jackson

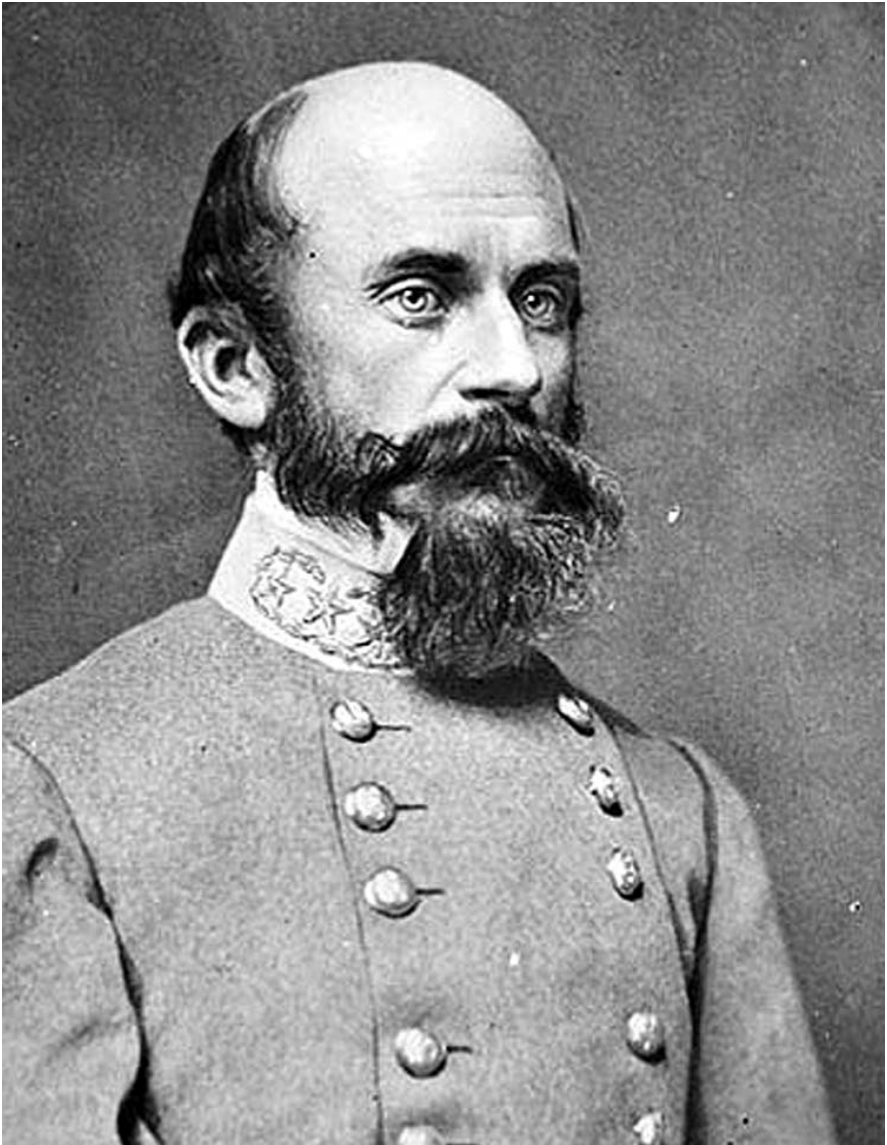
## Standing Like A Stonewall

Perhaps best known as “Stonewall,” Confederate General Thomas Jackson earned his nickname at the First Battle of Manassas after refusing to withdraw his troops in the face of total carnage. After Brigadier General Barnard Bee informed him that his forces were being beaten back, Jackson replied, “Sir, we will give them the bayonet.” Inspired by the bravery of his subordinate, General Bee immediately rallied the remnants of his brigade while shouting, “There is Jackson standing like a stone wall. Let us determine to die here and we will conquer.”

A devout believer in predestination, Jackson insisted that God had already determined his time on earth and that no spot on the battlefield was safer than the other. Always eager to share his relationship with the Father, Jackson wrote letter after letter urging his countrymen (and women) to actively seek repentance.

One letter, written to his sister, summarized his faith. He wrote, “You wish to know how to come to God; so as to have your sins forgiven and to receive ‘the inheritance which is incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away.’ Now my dear sister the way is plain: the Savior says in Mark XVI chapter, 16th verse ‘He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.’ But you may ask what is it to believe?”

To explain this I will quote from an able theologian and devoted servant of God. To believe in the sense in which the word is used here, is feeling and acting as if there were a God, a Heaven, a Hell; as if we were sinners and must die; as if we deserve eternal death and were in danger of it. And in view of all, casting our eternal interests on the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. To do this is to be a Christian.”



*And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you:  
and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done  
this thing. (2 Samuel 2:6)*



*The path to glory cannot be followed with  
much baggage. – Richard S. Ewell*

## Conversion In The Camp

Not all gentlemen in the Army of Northern Virginia shared their commander “Stonewall” Jackson’s passion for prayer. At times, their pious general’s religious enthusiasm annoyed those who were agnostic, including members of his own staff. Several shared the notion early on, that General Jackson’s dependence on prayer hindered his ability to make swift decisions when they were required.

One evening during a council of war, Jackson listened intently to various options presented by his subordinates. After they had concluded, he thanked them for their efforts, but added that he would present his own plans in the morning. Leaving him to ponder their strategies, Lieutenant-General A.P. Hill said, “Well, I suppose Jackson wants time to pray over it.”

Later that night, Hill’s counterpart, General Richard S. Ewell, returned and observed his superior through the tent flap, on his knees praying intensely for guidance in the difficult movements that lay before them. Upon hearing the excitement in Jackson’s voice and witnessing the sincerity in his heart, Ewell said, “If that is religion, I must have it.” Up to that point, Ewell had maintained a bedrock faith in God, but organized religion no longer played an important role in his life. He did not own a Bible and his cynicism might be attributed to the horrors of war.

Despite this, he earned a reputation as an aggressive fighter and a leader who saw to the welfare of his men, an attribute that won him their love and devotion. He later attributed his own rediscovery of the Gospel and profession of faith to the influence and example of his commander. Following the untimely death of Jackson, Ewell assumed the post and services of his chaplain, the Reverend Beverly Tucker Lacy. Following the South’s surrender, Ewell continued to practice his faith and eventually became a communicant at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Columbia.



*Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem. (Ezra 7:27)*



*Next to the acknowledgment of his Maker was the thought of home and of the young mother with his child in her arms! The man of war was at the same time the most domestic of men. All his heart was centered in one spot.* – Mary Anna Morrison on her husband

## Widow's Weeds

During the summer of 1857, Thomas Jackson met a minister's beautiful young daughter named Mary Anna Morrison. She was a North Carolinian and like him, she lived for the glory of God. If anyone could have filled the void left by his first wife, Elinor Junkin's passing, it was Mary. And shortly after their introduction, the two fell in love. After a short courtship, they were married and settled into a modest house in preparation to start a family. Both became Sunday school teachers and were committed to the Word. Less than one year after their wedding, the Jackson's were blessed with a baby girl. They named her Mary Graham. Despite a safe delivery, the infant developed an illness and passed away a few weeks later.

At the time, it seemed incomprehensible that yet another childbirth catastrophe could occur in his lifetime. First, Thomas' mother passed away giving birth to his stepbrother. Then his first love and unborn son failed to survive delivery. Now his newborn daughter had been taken just a few weeks into her precious life. Despite his grief, Jackson steadied his spirit. For most broken-hearted parents, the loss of a child is unbearable. For Thomas and Mary, it was a call to faith and an affirmation that God's will be done.

Both immediately turned to their Lord and the healing power of prayer. Later in their lives they were blessed with the birth of a daughter and named her Julia. Following her husband's premature death and burial in Lexington, Virginia, Mary returned to her native North Carolina to raise their daughter in peace. Faithful to the very end, she never remarried and wore the customary widow's weeds for the remainder of her life. After the untimely death of her daughter, who was only in her late-twenties, Mary took to the task of raising her two grandchildren and writing her memoirs as the wife of one of America's greatest generals. In 1898, she became the founder of the Stonewall Jackson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in Charlotte, North Carolina, and participated as an honorary president before reuniting with her beloved Thomas and their daughter in 1915.



*Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it  
with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth  
mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:8)*



*In their religious instruction he succeeded wonderfully. His discipline was systematic and firm, but very kind. ...His servants revered and loved him, as they would have done a brother or father. ...He was emphatically the black man's friend.* – Dr. William Spottswood White, Lexington Presbyterian Church

## Slave Sunday School

**R**egarded as one of the more pious heroes in American military history, Lieutenant General Thomas Jackson is still considered to be one of the most inspirational and eccentric of all the Confederacy's leaders. After returning to the United States following a tour of duty with the army in Mexico, Jackson joined the Presbyterian denomination. Later on, he became a deacon and generously donated one tenth of his earnings to the church. Eager to share his renewed faith with all people, Jackson was instrumental in the organization, in 1855, of Sunday school classes for blacks at the Presbyterian Church in Lexington, Virginia. Although he could not alter the social status of slaves, Jackson committed himself to Christian decency and pledged to "assist the souls of those held in bondage."

He continued his prayerful and financial support for the rest of his life and stayed in touch with the school even when on campaign during the Civil War. In a letter sent to his pastor he wrote, "In my tent last night, after a fatiguing day's service, I remembered that I failed to send a contribution for our colored Sunday school. Enclosed you will find a check for that object, which please acknowledge at your earliest convenience and oblige yours faithfully." Eventually the school congregation grew beyond the allotted facilities and ultimately blossomed into new churches for African-Americans.

In this regard, we can see how the evangelical white Christian slave owner had a positive influence on the spiritual education of those held in captivity. As a result, many ex-slaves became preachers themselves and were later responsible for some of the largest religious revivals that followed the South's surrender. Today, Jackson's ministry is looked upon with gratitude by the Christian ancestors of those who first attended the school.



*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)*





*Long ago, when I first read about “Stonewall” Jackson and his playful time with little Janie Corbin, I wanted to paint it. I think the Christmas setting underscores the obvious love that Jackson showed for his little friend.* – Civil War artist Mort Künstler on his limited edition painting “Janie Corbin and Old Jack”

## Old Jack And Little Janie

In the winter of 1862-1863, General Thomas Jackson’s troops made headquarters at Moss Neck Plantation, located on the banks of Virginia’s Rappahannock River. Owned by Richard and Roberta Corbin, the estate provided a perfect location for stationing a weathered army in desperate need of rest and replenishment. Over the next few months Jackson developed an endearing friendship with the Corbin’s five-year-old daughter, Janie. With Richard’s absence, Thomas became an “adopted” father of sorts and Janie happily played the role of a \*daughter who Jackson had yet to meet.

In March, General Robert E. Lee sent orders to initiate maneuvers for the upcoming spring campaign. Before departing, Thomas and his staff went to the Corbin house to thank the entire family for their service to the country. Upon their arrival, Janie’s mother informed them that all of the children had come down with a fever. Jackson immediately offered the services of his personal surgeon, but was reassured by Mrs. Corbin, who cited her own doctor’s prediction for a rapid recovery. After a short visit to the child’s bedside, the general pushed on, well aware that another fight was on the horizon.

One day later, word reached camp that Janie had died from scarlet fever. The news hit Jackson hard, causing him to break down and weep. Although his tears may have caught some of his staff off guard, those who really knew their general understood the gentle spirit buried beneath the gritty warrior. Kneeling in prayer, Jackson may have found comfort in one of his favorite verses from Romans, 8:28, which states “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

*\*Julia Jackson pictured left with her mother*