

THE MANY FACES OF STONEWALL JACKSON

Thomas J. Jackson was an intensely religious man who was concerned for the well-being (especially the spiritual well-being) of slaves. He was also a tough and perhaps even a merciless warrior for the Confederacy. Can you reconcile these aspects of his character?

My dear pastor, 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. [Jackson had founded a Sunday school for blacks at his church in 1855.]

—Letter to his pastor after the First Battle of Bull Run

Captain, my religious belief teaches me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time for my death. I do not concern myself about *that*, but to be always ready, no matter when it may overtake me. Captain, that is the way all men should live, and then all would be equally brave.

—Speaking to Captain John D. Imboden (24 July 1861)

I hope and pray to Heaven that I shall never again have to fight a battle on the Lord's Day. [Jackson disliked fighting battles on Sundays.]

—attr. by Fletcher Pratt, *A Short History of the Civil War: Ordeal by Fire*

[The night after a battle in the Shenandoah Valley, a] colonel reported to Jackson and expressed regret at the killing he had done. Jackson replied calmly: "Colonel, why did you say you saw those Federal soldiers fall with regret?" Startled, the colonel said he had admired their valor, and hated to have to slaughter such brave men. Jackson replied: "No. Kill them all. I do not wish them to be brave in the Devil's service."

—attr. by Fletcher Pratt, *A Short History of the Civil War: Ordeal by Fire*

Let us cross over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees.

—Last words (May 10, 1863)