



Bible-based. Christ-centered. Family-focused. Mission-minded.

Welcome! We're glad you are here!
Sunday - December 31, 2023

Why Four Gospel Accounts?

by Troy Spradlin

After reading the *Gospel According to Matthew*, then reading Mark and Luke's accounts, it becomes readily apparent that all three are the same story of Jesus, but repeated by different people. While John's version is told in a slightly different manner, it still covers many of the same events and things that Matthew, Mark and Luke did. So why do we need four different accounts of the same story? Why didn't the people who organized the Bible just pick one and leave it at that? The answer to these questions are important points for good Bible students to understand.

First, we need to understand that "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God ...*" (2 Timothy 3:16) and that "*prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*" (2 Peter 1:21). This simply means that everything in the Bible is there for a reason, mainly because God intended for it to be that way (cf Rom 15:4; 2 Pet 1:3). He is the One Who provided the source and then moved those men to gather these letters and manuscripts together in the order in which we have today. It could have been just two accounts, or ten accounts.

It was God's decision to have four accounts included in the New Testament.



Secondly, each account speaks to or resonates more with particular groups than others. For example, Matthew was a Jew, so he wrote and made points that would appeal to the Jews. He covers the many prophecies that Jesus fulfilled (which the Jews would know about from the prophet's writings). He lists Jesus' genealogy and specific details that would help Jewish readers identify Jesus as the promised Messiah of the Old Testament. Throughout the account, Jesus is presented as the Anointed One and King. On the other hand, Mark had Roman ancestry, and his account was written more rapidly, concisely, and pragmatically. His style would appeal more to Roman Gentile readers as Jesus is presented with power and strength. Yet, as great as Jesus was, He was also a servant.

Luke was a Greek Gentile, so his writing style reflects that particular worldview and presents Jesus as the "perfect man." Greeks were attracted to philosophy and physical perfection. Luke provides details that would appeal to those of that mindset. So, Matthew's account was intended to reach the Jewish population, Mark's target audience was the Romans, and Luke focused more on the Greek seekers. John's Gospel account is geared more toward Christians, in general. He focuses more on the personal characteristics of Jesus and that He is the Son of God. His style is quite different than the other three. So, **each Gospel account has a specific, intended audience, teaching, and style.**

Lastly, I believe it's helpful to use the analogy of an "Accident in an Intersection" to explain the purpose and scope of the four Gospel accounts. Imagine there was an accident in the middle of an intersection. Also, suppose a student was standing on one corner, a doctor on another, a lawyer on the third, and a policeman on the other corner. Each one would have a completely different view of the accident. What one might not be able to see from one angle could be viewed from another. For example, the student may have noticed that the light was red, while the doctor might not be able to discern if there were any injuries. The same is true for the Gospel writers. **Each of them would have a completely different viewpoint of the Messiah.** Thus, they write from what they have personally seen.

Even the witness testimonies of the accident will differ because of their backgrounds. The doctor will be mostly concerned about the well-being of those involved. The lawyer will be primarily concerned about who was at fault for the accident, while the police officer probably just wanted to secure the scene and alert emergency services. Meanwhile, the student saw the whole thing perfectly and gave a lot of detail that the others didn't provide. Such is the case of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John's writings. They each bring a different mindset to their inspired pen, giving us a beautiful, amplified, and more complete picture of the most important person ever to walk the earth!



MSYG EVENTS & INFO



MARGARET STREET
Marriage Retreat
2024

JANUARY 12-14 | EMBASSY SUITES | DESTIN, FL
GUEST SPEAKERS: STEVE & DEIDRA CUMMINGS,
CULLMAN, AL
SIGN UP & PAY \$65 DEPOSIT BY DECEMBER 10TH



MSYG SINGING SERVICE PROJECT
JANUARY 17 | 4PM
SODALIS SENIOR LIVING



YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT
Wed. January 17th
4:30 pm in the FH



2023 - 2024

Upcoming Workshops & Info
January 21: Workshop, Speech Dress Rehearsal, Registration fees due, & Pre-convention event deadline



SNAC SUNDAY NIGHT AFTER CHURCH
January 28 | @ McReynolds



MSYG
Parent Meeting
January 28 | 4:30 pm | Room 303



UNSTOPPABLE

GULF COAST AREAWIDE 2023-2024 SCHEDULE

- AUG 13 / AZALEA CITY COC
- SEPT 17 / GULF SHORES COC
- OCT 15 / SCENIC HILLS COC
- NOV 10-12 / FUEL RETREAT
- JAN 7 / SPANISH FORT COC
- FEB 18 / EASTERN SHORE COC
- MAR 10 / UNIVERSITY COC
- APR 21 / MARGARET ST. COC



Youth Guys Night

Friday, February 2nd @ 7 pm
\$10 each (*Sign-up & pay by January 21st*)

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Ron Bartanen* - recovery
- Cassie Buchanan* - 2nd surgery, recovery
- Louie Bond - knee surgery, recovery
- Caitlin Crider* - surgery, recovery
- Renee Decker - hospice (Lester*)
- Donald Hamilton - tests, health (McGriff*)
- Josie Locklin* - fractured vertebrae
- Gail Mantie - health, tests (Amber D. mom)
- Mary McGriff* - @ home recovering
- Sharon Parker* - seizures, recovery
- Ruth Phillips* - health, prayers
- Patsy Prince - septic, ICU (L.Burnham*)
- Ashley Ray* - ACL surgery, recovery
- Jennifer Salter - surgery, recovery (Ruth W.*)
- Lee Smith - fractured vertebrae, kidney infec.
- Caden Thompson - premature baby (J.Carter)

Grieving a Loss

- Terry Baxley* - passing of Darlene
- Brooklyn Bostwick* - loss of mom, Kandi
- Sarah Davis & family* - loss of Gigi, Norma
- John Hart Ellis* - loss of wife
- Gary Good* - loss of sister
- Debbie Hill* and family - loss of Mary Salinas
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Doug Lee & family* - loss of mom, Betty
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Scott Shanahan - loss of Scott's father, Kevin
- Gloria Vonada & family - loss of Troy*

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman*)
- Sherryn Canniff* - homebound
- Sherry Davis* - The Blake (Davis/Napier*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia* - Fort Walton Beach
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Larry McDaniel* - Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller*
- Ruth Phillips* - Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith - Shut in (J.English mom)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)

Students in College

- Haley Bartell
- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Savannah Smith
- LizAnn Webb
- Nick Webb
- Lily Weathersbee
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Sharon Ates - upcoming surg. (Gallagher*)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Robbie Bullard - aneurysm/defect valve (Lee*)
- Janice Carter* - mobility, prayers
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Sherry Davis* - compression fracture, PT
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham - heart failure
- Scott Graham* - back pain
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues (Alonna's friend)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Terry Jennings* - home PT/recovery
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Martin family* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Donald McGriff* - health, prayers
- Theresa McHargue - ill, prayers (Gallagher*)
- Ron Miller - esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- Rodger Schwitzerlett - (Gallagher*)
- Donnie Turner - (Helms*)

Military

- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Jacksonville, FL
- Javanta Johnson - NAS Jacksonville Airforce
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Expectant Mothers

- April Estain - January 2024
- Ashley Thompson - January 2024
- Hannah Newcomb - April 2024
- Tara Henry - June 2024

Cancer

- Mike Anderson - (Warrington)
- Darrell Bozeman*
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Jack Davis*
- Sheryl Downy - surgery (Burnham*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Evergena Larkin - final stages (McGriff*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Connie Moore - (Fulton*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Ariel Perry - throat (Hatcher)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Al Sheridan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - waiting on results
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Meg Stojanik - (Hatcher*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Jada Crider* - Baptized
- Brittany Parker* - Baptized
- Dawson Hitchcock* - Baptized
- Matthew & Ashley Gingerich* - Baptized
- Olivia Gingerich* - Baptized
- Lanie Scott* - Baptized
- Ashley Scott Buckley* - Baptized
- Sharon Parker* - Baptized
- Scott Graham* - Baptized
- Emily Winfree* - Baptized
- Gary and Sherian Good* - Identified
- Jan Holmes* - Identified
- Mike and Addie Frahm* - Identified
- Terry & Judy Jennings* - Identified
- Josh & Stephanie Jennings* - Identified
- Jeremy & Amber Dunaway* - Identified
- Allen & Heather Overton family* - Identified
- John & Holley Raley family* - Identified
- Philip and Lanya Lester family* - Identified



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

MORNING

Opening Prayer Jeff Scott
 Song Director Stephen English
 Sermon Troy Spradlin
 "New Year. New You."
 Scripture Reading Brody Crider
 Micah 6:8
 Closing Prayer Rick Bird

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Gabriel Lee Judsen Jennings
 Cooper Jennings Brody Crider
 Luke McReynolds (Balcony)
 Comments Steve Fulton

EVENING

Opening Prayer
 Singing
 Scripture

 Comments

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep John Pace
 PowerPoint Matt McReynolds
 Greeters Eddie Longmire
 Secure Building Blake Hatcher

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director Luke M/Brody Crider
 Opening Prayer Jack Davis

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 140
 AM Worship 190
 PM Worship 73
 Wed. Night Bible Class 104
 Weekly Contribution \$9,967
 Weekly Budget \$11,280
 2023 Average Contribution \$9,797

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!

You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday, by noon.**
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.
- **Reminder:** If you use online giving, please consider covering the processing fees as part of you contribution.

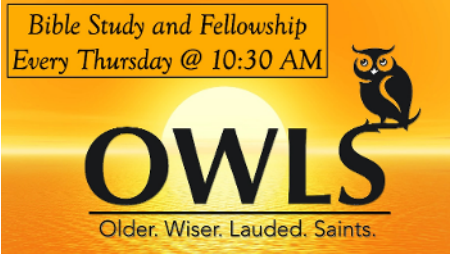


FOOD PANTRY

- **Food Pickup : 1/9/24 @ 9:30 AM**
- **Preparing Boxes:**
 - 1/10/24 @ 5:30 PM
 - 1/11/24 @ 9:30 AM
- **Distribution : 1/11/24 @ 2:30 PM**

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



Bible Study and Fellowship
 Every Thursday @ 10:30 AM

OWLS

Older. Wiser. Lauded. Saints.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code
 to open webpage
 for Online Giving

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 Secondary Joe Wilson

DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

Administration Troy Spradlin
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Mason Chandler
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
 Worship Blake Hatcher*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden