



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

**Welcome! We're glad you are here!**  
**Sunday - January 28, 2024**

## Scruples vs. Doctrine

*by Troy Spradlin*

It is nothing short of astonishing that so many people can have vastly different interpretations of certain Bible passages. Yet, it is not a new problem. It's been mankind's tendency since the Garden of Eden (cf Gen 3:1-6) and even Paul dealt with the issue, as evidenced in many of his letters (cf. Rom 6:1; 1 Cor 15:12; Gal 1:9; 1 Tim 1:3). Having a strong, clear understanding of Biblical mandates and Christian principles requires one to diligently study the Scriptures and learn to practice grace. This is the main point Paul makes in Romans 14. In that passage, brethren understood the Bible one way while others saw it a different way - eating all things, or not (v2); esteeming one day over another (v5); what is clean or not (v14). Essentially, they were allowing their personal scruples to override sound doctrine. Paul is teaching that we must learn to separate our personal scruples from doctrine.



**What are scruples?** Probably the most simple definition is, "they are personal, moral principles or beliefs that make you unwilling to do something that seems wrong." They are found in every aspect of our lives. For example, some people have no qualms about driving faster than the speed limit, while others do. Most would agree that stealing a car is wrong, but what about stealing intellectual property, like copy and pasting something off the internet that is copyrighted? The same is true concerning religious things. There is usually a Biblical command or principle that can be applied to most of life's issues, but where does one draw the line on some of those issues? That's where scruples come in. We have to make a judgment call. Yet, some Christians place their scruples above doctrine.

**Doctrine simply means teaching, or instruction.** What is often implied from the word is "rigid command." That's because the teachings or instructions from God, Jesus, or the Apostles are not negotiable. They are to be obeyed. It is the nuances (as in expediencies) of how to fulfill the command that becomes fertile ground for scruples. For example, we are commanded to partake of the "fruit of the vine" (Luke 22:18-20), but how are we to partake of it? Some interpret it as using only one cup, others infer that multiple, plastic cups are acceptable. To be adamantly unyielding about one or the other is a form of being scrupulous. In this particular case, could not both be acceptable in the spirit of unity? That's the type of point Paul is making in Romans 14 about causing one to stumble (14:13).

In conclusion, I want to share a portion of an article that the late, Jay F Guin, a former lawyer, and an elder in the church of Christ, wrote about this subject. The article was titled, [The Fork in the Road: Scruples, Part 1](#). His points and final solution are absolutely accurate. He wrote, "When we run our congregations to suit the sensibilities of our most easily offended members, we make these weak brothers – usually brothers with very bad theology - into de facto, unaccountable elders, which is very wrong. Men and women who don't remotely qualify for leadership are given absolute control in many churches by using their easily offended natures as weapons. It's wrong."

**"Teaching is the ultimate solution.** But you can spend decades on the role of women, divorce and remarriage, mixed bathing, etc., etc., etc. There's no end of 'issues' for people to have scruples over. Far better to talk about the bigger picture and help your members learn how God wants us to understand our faith. ... Particularly, teaching on grace is needed, rather than the particulars of the arguments for or against your position. Members have to be taught that, as Paul says, *"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."* [Romans 14:17]

**"The solution to doctrinal disagreement is not yielding to the most legalistic [or to the most liberal] in the community. It's both sides learning to yield their scruples to Christ and so to be united despite their disputes."** [arrangement and emphasis edits are mine - T.S.]



# MSYG EVENTS & INFO



Gulf Coast Bible Camp  
120 Bible Camp Road  
Lucedale, MS 39452

## Camp Sessions & Dates:

Baldwin County Week:  
May 26 - 31 (1st-12th grade)

Gulf Coast Week:  
June 2 - 7 (1st-12th grade)

Middle & High School Week:  
June 9 - 14 (6th-12th grade)

Junior Week:  
June 23 - 26 (1st-5th grade)

Hattiesburg Week:  
July 7 - 12 (1st-12th grade)

register at [gulfcoastbiblecamp.com](http://gulfcoastbiblecamp.com)



## 2023 - 2024

## Upcoming Workshops & Info

**February 11:**

PEARLS & Bible tests, Workshop, &  
2<sup>nd</sup> Speech Dress Rehearsal

**February 25 & March 3:**

Away Speeches

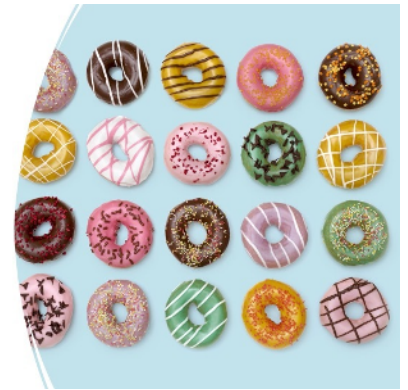
GULF COAST  
AREAWIDE 2023-2024  
SCHEDULE

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

## YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. February 21<sup>st</sup>

4:30 pm in the FH



**SNAC**  
**SUNDAY NIGHT**  
**AFTER CHURCH**  
January 28 | @ McReynolds

## Parent Meeting

January 28 | 4:30 pm | Room 303

MSYG GIRLS ARE INVITED TO

## 2024 GALENTINE DINNER

Friday, February 9th | 6 PM  
Hosted by Theresa Tucker

## Youth Guys Night

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

## THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*  
John 13:34



Digital access to our Calendars on your  
computer or personal device.

Scan this QR Code for the  
Church Calendar on [teamup.com](http://teamup.com)

# CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

## Recent/Urgent Requests

- Becky Bernardi - prayers (AGingerich's mom)
- Cassie Buchanant\* - 2nd surgery, recovery
- Caitlin Crider\* - surgery, recovery
- Russell & April Estain \* - birth of Owen\*
- Dawson Hitchcock\* - covets prayers
- Gail Mantie - health, tests (Amber D. mom)
- Sharon Parker\* - seizures, upcoming surgery
- Patsy Prince - septic, ICU (L.Burnham\*)
- Lee Smith - fractured vertebrae, kidney infec.
- Edwina Sumrall-broken shoulder, pneumonia
- Josh & Ashley Thompson - birth of baby boy!
- Caden Thompson - premature baby (J.Carter)
- Willie Waitman Jr. - leg amputation(Pace)
- Ruth Williams\* - oral surgery, recovery

## Grieving a Loss

- Terry Baxley\* - passing of Darlene
- Brooklyn Bostwick\* - loss of mom, Kandi
- 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
- Judy Jennings and family\* - loss of Terry
- 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

- Ron Bartenan\* - Victorian Manor
- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman\*)
- Sherryn Canniff\* - homebound
- Sherry Davis\*-Memory Care (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\*)

## Expectant Mothers

- Hannah Newcomb - April 2024
- Tara Henry - May 2024

## Other Requests / Health Issues

- Sharon Ates - upcoming surg. (Gallagher\*)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Louie Bond - knee surgery, recovery
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee\*)
- Janice Carter\* - mobility, prayers
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Renee Decker - hospice (Lester\*)
- 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)
- Donald Hamilton - tests, health (McGriff\*)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's\* friend)
- Terry Jennings\*- home PT/recovery
- Josie Locklin\* - fractured vertebrae , health
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes\*)
- Martin family\* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Donald McGriff\* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff\* - @ home recovering
- 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\*)
- Jennifer Salter - surgery, recovery (Ruth W.\*)
- 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

## Cancer

- Mike Anderson - (Warrington)
- 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 Jennings - (McGriff\*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff\*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley\*)
- Evergena Larkin - final stages (McGriff\*)
- Greg Lewis\* - lung cancer
- 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 Sherdan - 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)

## 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

## Recently Baptized/Restored/Identified

- Makenley Hitchcock\* - Baptized 12/31/23
- Debbie Gill\* - Baptized 1/23/24
- Dawson Hitchcock\* - Restored 12/31/23





# SERVING WITH HONOR

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

### MORNING

Opening Prayer ..... Richard Fisher  
Song Director ..... Casey Bearden  
Sermon ..... Troy Spradlin  
..... "Responding to Grace"  
Scripture Reading ..... Joe King  
..... Romans 4:1 & 4:20-25  
Closing Prayer ..... Chris Davis

### Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Philip Lester ..... Nick Bartell  
Holden Raley ..... Eddie Longmire  
..... Dalton Lester (Balcony)  
Comments ..... Joe Wilson

### EVENING

Opening Prayer ..... Song Service  
Singing ..... Song Service  
Scripture ..... Song Service  
..... Song Service  
Comments ..... Joe Wilson

### Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep ..... Hatcher family  
PowerPoint ..... Matt McReynolds  
Greeters ..... Jak Gallagher  
Secure Building ..... Rick Bird

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director ..... Brody Crider  
Opening Prayer ..... Jared Lee

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class ..... 159  
AM Worship ..... 202  
PM Worship ..... 134  
Wed. Night Bible Class ..... 171  
Contribution ..... \$17,423  
Weekly Budget ..... TBA  
2024 Average Contribution ..... \$20,321

### 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 your contribution.



**FOOD PANTRY**

- **Food Pickup** : 2/6/24 @ 9:30 AM
- **Preparing Boxes:**
  - 2/7/24 @ 5:30 PM
  - 2/8/24 @ 9:30 AM
- **Distribution** : 2/8/24 @ 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!



**OWLS BIBLE STUDY**  
**ANGELS AND DEMONS**  
Every Thursdays @ 10:30 AM  
Starting February 1st

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for Online Giving

## STAFF

**Troy Spradlin** ..... Preacher / Minister  
..... cell: 850-910-2868  
..... spradlin.troy@gmail.com  
**Casey Bearden** ..... Family Minister  
..... cell: 706-889-3222  
..... caseybearden@live.com  
**Blisse Hatcher** ..... Church Secretary  
..... cell: 850-625-8911  
..... margarstcoc@gmail.com  
**Scott Shanahan** ..... Missionary  
..... cell: 865-443-9856  
..... scottshanahan@hotmail.com  
**Trevor Smoot** ..... Domestic Missionary  
..... cell: 937-417-4297  
..... smooterii@outlook.com

## ELDERS

**Rick Bird** ..... 994-3148  
..... rickbird424@gmail.com  
**Phillip Webb** ..... 232-7431  
..... pw\_webb@hotmail.com  
**Joe Wilson** ..... 206-8350  
..... jaw@wilsonharrell.com

### CONTACT FOR JANUARY:

Primary..... Joe Wilson  
Secondary ..... Rick Bird

## 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