



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

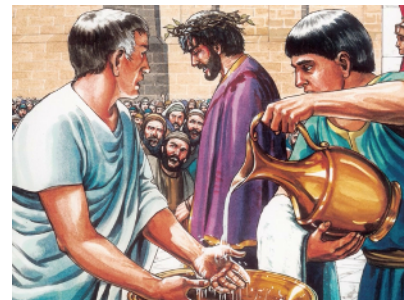
**Welcome! We're glad you are here!**  
Sunday - March 3, 2024

## What if the Jews picked Jesus instead of Barabbas?

*by Troy Spradlin*

It was a chaotic scene. A raucous crowd had gathered in the stone-paved courtyard called "Gabbatha." The Governor of Judea set a proposal before the people, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" He gave them a choice. They replied, "Barabbas!" Pilate responded, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Now, Barabbas had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder. Jesus was innocent. He had done nothing wrong or illegal, yet, Barabbas was a murderer! Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" (Matt 27:15-23; Luke 23:18-25; John 18:39-40)

Was an opportunity missed? Should Pilate just have used his power to release Jesus, knowing He was innocent? What would have happened if the Jews had picked Jesus to be released instead of Barabbas? This is a question recently posed to me.



Anyone who knows the Gospel story knows that Jesus was led away and crucified. He died on that cross an innocent man and was buried in a tomb among the wealthy. But the story doesn't end there. Jesus arose from the grave! His resurrection is the "Good News"! Why? Because He conquered death (Revelation 1:18). Since Jesus arose from the dead, we, too, can live again. For "if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!" (1 Corinthians 15:17). It all happened for a reason - it was part of God's plan to save us from our sins (Acts 2:23)!

So, to answer the question, "What would have happened if the Jews had chosen Barabbas instead of Jesus?" we can say, without a doubt, that Jesus still would have died, been buried, and resurrected. No matter the circumstances, the "fullness of time had come" (Galatians 4:4), and God's plan was to be fulfilled. Yes, the Jews had free will; they could have chosen Barabbas. God did not force them against their will in order to enact His divine plan. By no means! However, since they were such willing participants, eager to reject this "blasphemer" and destroy Him (John 5:18), God certainly used their hatred for Jesus to, ultimately, carry out the "Scheme of Redemption."

Notice that the Bible says their choice fulfilled prophecy of what would happen. John writes, "Then Pilate said to them, 'You take Him and judge Him according to your law.' Therefore the Jews said to him, 'It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,' that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die (18:31-32)." The evil, hostile Jews who were against Jesus thought they were ridding themselves of some undesirable, but instead, unknowingly became God's servants, the same way evil King Nebuchadnezzar became God's servant to carry out His plans and purposes many years earlier (cf. Jeremiah 25:9; Acts 2:23-34, 4:10).

Jesus Himself stated, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again" (Luke 24:7, 18:31-33). He was fully aware of what was coming. The word "must" is the critical term in that passage. It implies that the crucifixion of Jesus was planned, necessary, ordained, and guaranteed. His death was the primary objective. Why? How could Jesus overcome death (as a human being), unless he first died? It had to happen. It was just as Isaiah 53 stated, the whole event was laid out and prophesied beforehand. I like the way the CEV renders it: "The Lord decided his servant would suffer as a sacrifice to take away the sin and guilt of others. Now the servant will live to see his own descendants. He did everything the Lord had planned." (Isaiah 53:10)

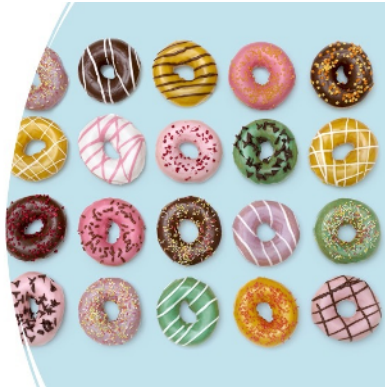
I appreciate the question, but the real answer is, "It doesn't matter what they did, because God's plan would be and was carried out according to His will." Let's be thankful for what He actually did, instead of what might have been!



# MSYG EVENTS & INFO

## YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. March 6<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 pm in the FH



## YOUTH FUN DAY

March 16 @ Cannon's



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)



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

2023 - 2024



### Upcoming Events & Info

**TODAY:**

Workshop; Away Speeches @  
Century & Brewton

2023 - 2024



### Margaret Street Presentations

**Girls:**

Wednesdays, March 13 & 20  
(during Bible Class Hour)

**Boys:**

Sundays, March 17 & 24  
(during PM service)

## L2L Easter Bags

Easter bags will be given to L2L participants at convention. If you would like to donate money or candy please see Renee Ray, April Estain, or Ashley Ray!

## Kingdom Kids Easter Egg Hunt

MARCH 17, 2024 | 11:45 AM  
MARGARET STREET LAWN

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED  
PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE KK FB PAGE EVENT IF  
YOU WILL BE ATTENDING

### THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24



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

- Joe Bartell\* - hip replacement, recovery
- Cassie Buchanant\* - 2nd surgery, recovery
- David West family - passing of mother, Ann
- Richard Curtis - SHH, kidneys (Fisher\*)
- Wilfred Derrick - kidney failure (Renee Ray\*)
- Talor Freeman\* - prayers, encouragement
- Donald McGriff\* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff\* - upcoming test, prayers
- Sharon Parker\* - seizures, upcoming surgery
- Sharee Patrick - tests, prayers (Jeanna sister)
- Lee Smith - fractured vertebrae, kidney infec.
- Edwina Sumrall - broken shoulder, pneumonia
- Caden Thompson - premature baby (J.Carter)
- Willie Waitman Jr. - leg amputation (Pace)

## Grieving a Loss

- Terry Baxley\* - passing of Darlene
- Bostwick\* family - loss of mom, Kandi
- 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
- Paul Lipford and family - loss of mother
- 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 Bartanen\* - Victorian Manor
- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman\*)
- Sherryn Canniff\* - homebound
- Sherry Davis\* - Memory Care (Davis/Napier\*)
- Renee Decker - hospice (Lester\*)
- Donna Dudley - Life Care Center (S. Davis\*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia\* - Fort Walton Beach
- Linda Mann\* - Shut In
- Peggy Masoner - Santa Rose Health Care
- 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
- Lauren Godwin - August 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
- Rachel Bugsby - heart surgery, recovery
- Robbie Bullard - aneurysm/defect valve (Lee\*)
- Janice Carter\* - mobility, prayers
- 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)
- Donald Hamilton - tests, health (McGriff\*)
- Chris Hollins - health, test (McGriff\*)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's\* friend)
- Joe Lewis - lupus
- Josie Locklin\* - fractured vertebrae, health
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes\*)
- Victoria Martinez - thyroid, prayers
- Theresa McHargue - ill, prayers (Gallagher\*)
- Ron Miller - esophagus infection (Ina Ruth\*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes\*)
- Patsy Prince - health struggles (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\*)
- Lynn Colada - (Ted's sister)
- Jack Davis\*
- Sheryl Downy - (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\*)
- 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\* - lymphedema, bone
- 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
- Savannah Smith\* - Baptized 1/31/24
- Brad & Amy Turner\* - Baptized 2/18/24
- Logan Ray\* - Baptized 2/25/24
- Dawson Hitchcock\* - Restored 12/31/23
- Joe and Gloria Martin\* - Identified 2/4



# SERVING WITH HONOR

## SUNDAY, MARCH 3

### MORNING

Opening Prayer ..... Chris Davis  
Song Director ..... Elliot Wilson  
Sermon ..... Troy Spradlin  
..... "Give God Your Best!"  
Scripture Reading ..... Joe Martin  
..... 1 Peter 1:13-19  
Closing Prayer ..... Rick Bird

### Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Josh Owens ..... Nick Bartell  
Jake Newcomb ..... Parker Godwin  
..... Paul Lipford (Balcony)  
Comments ..... Jared Lee

### EVENING

Opening Prayer ..... Joe King  
Singing ..... Paul Lipford  
Scripture ..... Matthew Gingerich  
..... Romans 12:1-2  
Comments ..... Jared Lee

### Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep ..... Jan Holmes  
PowerPoint ..... Lori Mense  
Greeters ..... John Pace  
Secure Building ..... Doug Lee

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director ..... Holden Raley  
Opening Prayer ..... Brody Crider

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class ..... 184  
AM Worship ..... 248  
PM Worship ..... 91  
Wed. Night Bible Class ..... 139  
Contribution ..... \$24,826  
Weekly Budget ..... \$11,558  
2024 Average Contribution ..... \$18,803

### 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 : 3/12/24 @ 9:30 AM
- Preparing Boxes:
  - 3/13/24 @ 5:30 PM
  - 3/14/24 @ 9:30 AM
- Distribution : 3/14/24 @ 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  
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..... 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 MARCH:

Primary..... Phillip Webb  
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