



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

Welcome! We're glad you are here!  
Sunday - June 16, 2024

## THE EXCEPTION OR THE RULE?

by Troy Spradlin

We live in a society that glorifies individualism and the unconventional, so the temptation to seek out the exception rather than adhere to the rule is quite prevalent in our thinking. Stories of mavericks going against the grain captivate us, making the pursuit of exceptionalism seem to be the most desirable and acceptable. This is especially true with religion. It seems that shunning the "old paths" (Jeremiah 6:16) and forging an avant-garde or "more spiritual way to love God" is preferred. However, when it comes to the Bible, choosing the exception to the rule is not always a wise choice. The exception does not override the rule; but instead, emphasizes its importance!



In my ministry, many approach me or contact me to ask what the Bible teaches about a particular topic. Quite often, no sooner do I finish giving them a sound, Bible answer, that I immediately hear, "But what about...?" It is a troubling and increasingly reoccurring pattern - always eager to find an exception to the rule. This is not a new problem. During the time of Jesus, the Pharisees built an elaborate system of man-made rules and regulations around God's law to "protect it" from what they perceived as lawless abuse. Ironically, by adding to God's commands, they essentially did away with it! By insisting on upholding their man-made traditions (exceptions) for themselves, they were "*making the word of God of no effect!*" (Mark 7:13)

Another example is the lawyer in Luke 10:29. By asking Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" he was essentially, looking for a loophole in the law of God. He had no issue with loving God, but he did not want to love someone whom he did not have to love. He wasn't focused on submitting to or doing God's will, but rather doing just the minimum! He was trying to find an exception to the rule of "love thy neighbor as thyself" (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37-39).

A modern example is how many will appeal to the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43) as the exception to being immersed, thereby making the "rule" for baptism not required for salvation. Even if we completely ignore the fact that (a) they're assuming the man wasn't baptized, (b) he was still under the old law, because Jesus hadn't died yet, and (c) Jesus has the power to forgive sins in person, (Luke 5:20) it by no means removes the command to be baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 10:48, 22:16). Why didn't the 3000 on Pentecost, the Ethiopian eunuch, or Paul himself claim the "exception to the rule" by appealing to the thief on the cross? It is because the exception does not override the rule. Baptism being necessary for salvation is NOT some ambiguous option. It is required by God's will.

There is no end to the "exceptions to the rule" that people look for in the Bible. They seek exceptions to the worship pattern that is clearly laid out in Scripture (John 4:24; Acts 2:42, 20:7; 1 Cor 11:23-28, 14:40, 16:2; Col 3:16). They hunt for exceptions in church leadership (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 14:34; 1 Tim 2:12, 3:1-13). They even appeal to "exceptions" in the authority of Scripture itself (Matt 7:21-23, 28:18; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:3, 20-21; Rev 22:18-19)! Yet, the Bible states clearly, "*Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*" (2 Tim 1:13) And, "*But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine [pattern] to which you were delivered.*" (Rom 6:17) Over and over, we see that God is a God of pattern, consistency, and exactitude. Yes, His grace and mercy are a free gift, but that doesn't mean we can abuse it by always looking for an exception (cf. Romans 6:1-23). He requires submission to His will - His "rules" (John 14:15; Jas 4:7).

Sometimes there may be an exception to a rule. But choosing the exception to the rule is not always a wise choice. In any case, the exception never becomes the rule in the Bible. Perhaps the most troubling aspect of all of this is that it is a heart issue. God's commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3) so why not just do what He says to do?

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# MSYG EVENTS & INFO

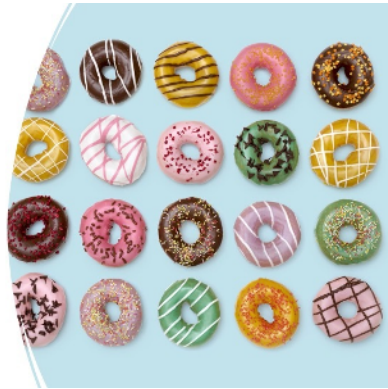


Please be prayerful for a fun and fruitful time at camp in 2024 for our Youth Group & Kingdom Kids!

## YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. June 19<sup>th</sup>

4:30 pm in the FH



## KEEPERS CANNING CLASS

JUNE 20TH [AT] 10:30 AM  
SIGN UP [AT] INFO STATION OR SEE  
ASHLEY GINGERICH FOR DETAILS



SIGN-UP & PAY \$40 BY JUNE 16



### THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

"The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." Exodus 14:14



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

Scan this QR Code for the Church Calendar on teamup.com

# CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

## Recent/Urgent Requests

- Cassie Buchanant\* - recovery, PT outside
- Caitlyn Crider\* - back surgery June 25th
- Katie Delmer family -loss and tragedy (D.Hill)
- Dawn Holloway - health, hospice
- Ann Lester - fell, prayers (P.Lester's mom)
- Philip Lester\*- 3rd ankle surgery 6/18
- Paul Lipford\* - hand surgery, recovery
- Jack Locklin - surgery, recovery (Avalon)
- Gloria Martin\* - PTpain, vision issues
- John Pace\* - surgery, knee replacement
- Ruth Phillips\* - hospice, prayers for comfort
- Sharon Parker\* - upcoming heart surgery
- Amy Prince - surgery, recovery (Burnham\*)
- Patsy Prince - fractured hip and shoulder
- Kenny Schenck - heart procedure (Fuller\*)
- Edwina Sumrall-broken tailbone, prayers
- Debbie Rivers - surgery soon (Jak G.\* sister)
- James Williamson-heart surgery (Roxanne P)
- Marty Wilson\* - health, hospital

## Grieving a Loss

- Bostwick\* family - loss of mom, Kandi
- Winston & Lola Burnham-loss of Brooks Ann
- Judy Jennings and family\* - loss of Terry
- Lanya Lester and family - loss of mom, Renee
- Paul Lipford and family - loss of mother
- Linda Loftin\* and family - loss of Jim\*
- Ted Russel\* - loss of sister
- Scott Shanahan - loss of Scott's father, Kevin
- Gloria Vonada & family - loss of Troy\*

## Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Ron Bartanen\* - Victorian Manor
- 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
- Peggy Masoner - Santa Rosa Health Care
- Larry McDaniel\*-Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller\* - Coral Bay of Pensacola
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines\* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith - Shut in (J.English mom)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton\*)

## Expectant Mothers

- 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
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee\*)
- Janice Carter\* - mobility, prayers
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire\*)
- Wilfred Derrick - kidney failure (Renee Ray\*)
- 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)
- Jackie Hamilton-severe health issue(McGriff\*)
- Chris Hollins - health, test (McGriff\*)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's\* friend)
- Patrick Johnson- upcoming surg. (McGriff\*)
- Joe Lewis - lupus
- Josie Locklin\* - fractured vertebrae , health
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes\*)
- Donald McGriff\* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff\* - upcoming test, prayers
- 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\*)
- Jennifer Salter - surgery, recovery (Ruth W.\*)
- Rodger Schwitzerlett - (Gallagher\*)
- Edith Sullins - @ home, recovery (Hatcher\*)
- Donnie Turner- (Helms\*)
- Willie Waitman Jr. - leg amputation(Pace)

## 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)
- Ron Bartenan\* - lung
- Misty Bray\* - (Bird\*)
- Lilly Cain - bladder (R. Locklin\* sister)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott\*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher\*)
- Jack Davis\*
- Sheryl Downy - (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
- Connie Moore - (Fulton\*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin\* friend)
- Timothy Parker - (Brittany's\* dad)
- Ariel Perry - throat (Hatcher)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher\*)
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff\*)
- Amy Prince - (Burnham\*)
- Meg Stojanik - (Hatcher\*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- Troy Vonada - kidneys (Gloria)
- David Walther - brain (English\*)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

## Students in College

- Haley Bartell
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- LizAnn Webb
- Lily Weathersbee
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

## Recently Baptized/Restored/Identified

- Makeney 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
- Deanna Wilson\* - Restored 4/19/24
- April Estain\* - Restored (6/9/24)
- Joe and Gloria Martin\*- Identified 2/4/24
- Billy & Heidi Hudgens\*-Identified 4/21/24

**Directory Pictures**  
Make up pictures **TODAY** in the Library after Services!

Debbie Gill  
Joe and Gloria Martin  
Hudgens family  
Brad and Amy Turner  
Deanna Wilson  
Sosa Smith  
Matt McReynolds - Deacon Picture



**KINGDOM LEADERS**  
MEN'S MINISTRY

JOIN US!  
June 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM  
Rick Bird's Home



**5th Sunday**  
**Potluck**

June 30th  
after AM Service  
Bring any dish you would like



# SERVING WITH HONOR

## SUNDAY, JUNE 16

### MORNING

Opening Prayer ..... David English  
 Song Director ..... Caleb Overton  
 Sermon ..... Troy Spradlin  
 ..... "Who Is My Neighbor?"  
 Scripture Reading ..... Bob Locklin  
 ..... Mark 12:28-34  
 Closing Prayer ..... Phillip Webb

### Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Rick Bartenan ..... Seth Crider  
 Joe Taylor ..... Michael English  
 ..... Logan Ray (Balcony)  
 Comments ..... Rick Bird

### EVENING

Opening Prayer ..... Jared Lee  
 Singing ..... Stephen English  
 Scripture ..... Blake Hatcher  
 ..... Hebrews 10:26-31  
 Comments ..... Rick Bird

### Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep ... Mike & Patsy Scott  
 PowerPoint ..... Matt McReynolds  
 Secure Building ..... Casey Bearden

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director ..... Allen Overton  
 Opening Prayer ..... Pete Pierce

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class ..... 128  
 AM Worship ..... 190  
 PM Worship ..... 92  
 Wed. Night Bible Class ..... 135  
 Contribution ..... \$7,518  
**Weekly Budget : \$11,558**

### 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 : 7/9/24 @ 9:30 AM
- Preparing Boxes:
  - 7/10/24 @ 5:30 PM
  - 7/11/24 @ 9:30 AM
- Distribution : 7/11/24 @ 2:30 PM

*Please consider donating toiletry items or sunblock*

### 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**

*1st Corinthians*

**Every Thurs. 10:30 AM**

*love is patient, love is kind*  
1 corinthians 13:4

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for Online Giving

## STAFF

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**Scott Shanahan** ..... Missionary  
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**Trevor Smoot** .... Domestic Missionary  
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## ELDERS

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

### CONTACT FOR JUNE:

Primary..... Doug Lee  
 Secondary ..... Phillip Webb

## 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