

## UPCOMING

- Graduation celebration for Decker McKenzie May 3 following worship service
- Supplies for Ukraine mission (list on bulletin board)
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## Prayer List

Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments.

- Renee Cumberland (cancer)
- Ora Barrett
- Connie Montgomery
- Emily Linton
- Andy Duncan (Liver transplant)
- Wayne Rigdon

## Communion Preparation

2026 preparation list is in foyer  
April -Potts  
May -  
June -

## Birthday / Anniversary

Axel Murphy - 2nd  
Steve Mabry - 22nd  
Cathy Reeves - 23rd  
Lennon Joiner - 27th  
John & Cathy Reeves - 15th

## Men to Serve

- Announcements - Shay Cooper  
Scripture Reading - John 4:19 - 24  
Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell  
Head of Lord's Table - Larry Montgomery  
Assist on Lord's Table - David Cradic  
Scripture Reading - 1 Corinthians 11:23 - 29  
Closing Prayer - Dwight Callens



04 / 12 / 2026

# WELCOME

We are a body of believers whose soul intention is to glorify and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of His church. Our desire is to reflect that of our God--that all be saved. Anyone who is willing to humble himself before the mighty hand of God can be saved.

## WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

### SUNDAY

Bible Study //  
9:30 am  
Worship Service //  
10:30 am

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study //  
7:00 pm

### NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

4217 Highway 39 N // Meridian, MS 39301  
**PHONE:** (601)483-2726 **WEB:** [www.nscocmeridian.com](http://www.nscocmeridian.com)  
Join us via live stream for our worship service!  
Like our Facebook page!

# SERMON NOTES

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## Pluck Out Your Own “I”

By David Weak

Sin is such a terrible thing that Jesus said it would be better to pluck out your own eye and cast it from you if your eye causes you to sin (Matthew 5:29; 18:9). According to the Lord, it would be better to be blind and go to heaven than to struggle with lust of the eye only to lose your eternal soul. That is quite a statement! Eternal life is so important and should be the only real consideration for a Christian. Being physically limited is better than having all of one’s faculties and going to hell.

Please allow me a play on words here: for “eye,” substitute the word “I.” “If your ‘I’ causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it far from you. . .” The words “I” and “Me” are two of the most dangerous words in our vocabulary. People are often quite self-absorbed, and that is a dangerous thing to one’s spiritual life. Sin is the result of one being drawn away by his desires and enticed (James 1:13-15). The desires that James describes clearly have to do with self-interest. If love of self keeps you from heaven, then it is certainly better to cut away your “I” and put others first. Everything in the New Testament teaches us that a disciple of the Lord is one who

puts others ahead of himself (Philippians 2:3-4). Love does not seek its own (1 Corinthians 13:5). One is to seek the well-being of others rather than his own well-being (1 Corinthians 10:24).

Unfortunately, most people struggle with “Me Syndrome.” Consider these clear Bible examples. Greed motivated the sin of Balaam (2 Peter 2:15; Jude v. 11; Revelation 2:14). Ananias and Sapphira kept back part of the proceeds of the sale of their possessions and lied about it out of plain old selfishness (Acts 5:1-10). What drove David to sin with the wife of Uriah if it was not selfishness (2 Samuel 11:1-5)? Who could argue that selfish desire to possess real power from God was at the root of Simon the sorcerer’s sin (Acts 5:21-23)?

Are you one of those self-absorbed people? The test is simple: How many times a day do you say, “I”? Do you talk more about what you think about things than you wonder what others might think? Do you lecture people about what you like? Are words like, “I think. . . I feel. . . I want. . . I need. . . I believe. . . I like. . . I don’t like. . . It seems to me. . . If you ask me. . .” the driving force of your conversations?

If so, then you probably need to “pluck out your ‘I’ and cast it far from you.”

## John Mark: A Story of Redemption

By Heath Rogers

John Mark appears in the New Testament only in association with more prominent personalities and events. However, a careful study of his life provides us with important information and needed lessons. Mark was a travel companion of the apostle Paul and was Barnabas’ cousin (Colossians 4:10). Peter calls him “my son” (1 Peter 5:13) which may indicate Peter was responsible for Mark’s conversion.

Mark is introduced in Acts 12:12; “So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.” John was his Jewish name. Mark was his Roman or Latin name. “Here we have our first certain introduction to one who was to play an important part in Christian history over the next thirty years” (F.F. Bruce 251). We know nothing about his father, but his mother’s name was Mary. Her house was large enough to allow many Christians to gather together to pray at a time when Herod was trying to kill church leaders. This tells us that Mary had some wealth, a strong faith, and a hospitable heart.

Mark traveled to Antioch of Syria with Paul and Barnabas when they returned from Jerusalem (Acts 12:25) and joined them on their first preaching journey (13:5). However, for an unstated reason, Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem (verse 13). Paul held this against Mark when Barnabas wanted to take him on a second journey. “But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work” (15:38). Barnabas parted from Paul, taking Mark and sailing to Cyprus, while Paul traveled with Silas. In writing the book of Acts, Luke focuses on Paul’s efforts, providing no information about the work done by Barnabas and Mark. These men simply disappear from Luke’s account.

About eleven years later, we learn that Paul has changed his mind about Mark. He is included in the list of men who are working

with Paul during his first imprisonment in Rome (Philemon 24). In fact, Paul commends Mark to the Colossians; “Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him)” (Colossians 4:10). The greatest complement to Mark is found in Paul’s final letter. In calling Timothy to come to his side in Rome, Paul’s request is, “Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry” (2 Timothy 4:11). This simple statement brings a happy ending to a troubled thread in the New Testament. There was a time when Paul was not willing to work with Mark because he did not believe he was reliable. However, after time proving himself, Paul finds him useful (dependable and helpful) in doing the Lord’s work.

Mark’s story lets us know that moments of failure don’t have to be the defining moments of our lives. Mark didn’t give up on his service to the Lord. With the help of Barnabas, he was able to establish a proven track record that would later convince his greatest critic. The disappointment of our failures is only compounded when we lose the confidence of our brethren. However, when we repent, we need to put ourselves back into the Lord’s service, striving to please Him as our Master. Faithful service will be rewarded by the Lord, but it will also be noticed by others. Mark’s “redemption” in the eyes of Paul is a message of hope to many Christians who struggled and stumbled in their past.

Mark’s greatest impact on Christianity was being the author of the second gospel. Eusebius (lived in the Third and Fourth Centuries, and wrote extensively of the history of the church) records the agreed statements of Papias, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, and others, that Mark was a close associate of the apostle Peter, serving as his interpreter in Rome, and that he wrote his gospel from Peter’s remembrances. Eusebius also writes that Mark later traveled to Egypt, founded the church in Alexandria, and died by martyrdom.