

[illegible]

Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments.

- Renee Cumberland, Sadie Hodge, Spencer Dickerson (cancer)
- Ora Barrett
- Connie Montgomery
- Emily Linton
- Andy Duncan (Liver transplant)
- Gary Cradic (recovering from stroke)

2026 preparation list is in foyer
October - Cooper
November - Rowell
December - Rowell

Bowen Stephens - 4th
Dave Cradic - 6th
Gerri Thrash - 13th
Don Potts - 22nd
Sonja Rowell - 23rd
Gene Hurst - 26th

Announcements - Shay Cooper

Scripture Reading - Mark 5:25-34

Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell

Head of Lord's Table - Rick Carlberg

Assist on Lord's Table - Mark Potts

Scripture Reading - Luke 22:14-22

Closing Prayer - James Johnson



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

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

Bible Study //
7:00 pm

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

Dismissing the Bad

By Greg Gwin

A nearby bakery shop has a reputation for making some absolutely incredible cinnamon rolls. These rolls are huge, and are literally packed with brown sugar, cinnamon, and butter, and are topped with thick, gooey icing. The very thought of these can make one’s mouth water.

But, alas, the health food craze has surely taken its toll on the cinnamon roll business. And though we love our sweets, we’ve been warned about all those calories — and we shutter to think of the cholesterol! What’s a baker to do when cinnamon rolls are getting so much bad press?

The answer, of course, is to offer people an option that appeals to their health conscious sensitivities. And so, the baker of those delectable cinnamon rolls is now selling an oat bran muffin. Well, everyone has heard of the great benefits of oat bran. It has been touted as the remedy to a whole host of health problems. Surely then an oat bran muffin is just what the doctor ordered. Never mind that these particular muffins are as big as a softball, have more than a fair share of sugar, butter, calories, and even contain a huge dose of cholesterol! Which simply proves that if we can hide something bad behind a name that sounds good, most folks will “swallow it”.

This same trick is being used by Satan in the spiritual realm. Homosexuality is now an “alternate lifestyle” and no longer no longer called an “abomination” (Lev. 18:22). Alcoholism sounds better than drunkenness, and it is easier to “swallow” if we call it a disease rather than a sin. You get the idea. But, remember, calling something bad by a good name does not change the outcome.

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!” (Isaiah 5:20-21)

The Death that Jesus Wants

By Allen Dvorak

A recent television program detailed the practice of people being crucified in imitation of Jesus. The camera panned men tied to crosses with large nails driven through their hands. The narrator commented that each person spent only a few minutes on the cross and that no one had died from these mock crucifixions despite the limited medical care provided

after the ordeal. He noted that those who had been crucified blended into the crowd after being taken down from the cross.

I purposefully used the phrase “mock crucifixion.” In the time of Jesus, crucifixion was not just a means of torturing an individual, it was a method of execution! It was common for a man to be scourged or beaten prior to crucifixion in order to weaken him, but crucifixion was designed to be a relatively slow, lingering death. Death by crucifixion was often the result of slow asphyxiation. The victim was nailed on a cross in such a fashion that he must push against the nails in his feet and/or pull against the nails in his wrists to be able to breathe. As his muscles tired and cramped, his respiration became more difficult and shallow. According to historians, such a death could take days, depending upon circumstances (physical strength, type of cross, severity of scourging, etc.). Jesus wasn’t simply tied to a cross and carefully nailed so that He could be taken off of the cross a few minutes later after He had suffered some pain.

Jesus said that anyone who desired to be His disciple should take up his cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:27). He was not referring to the “mock crucifixion” which I have described. He meant that a man had to put to death his own sinful desires, i.e. die to himself. Paul described such a death: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

We must crucify “the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24). When a person submits to the will of Christ, allowing the Word of God to regulate his life completely, only then has he denied himself, i.e., crucified self (Mark 8:34). This is the death that Jesus wants, rather than some brief show of bravado in front of a crowd.

It may seem a greater sign of commitment to have nails driven through one’s hands, but the truth is that such “dedication” need only last a few minutes and then the nails are removed and the hands bandaged (according to the television program). Crucifying self involves the transformation of one’s life. It is easier to suffer pain of being nailed for a few moments than to live one’s entire life in righteous service to Jesus! **Those who crucify self will stand out from the world.**