

GOD’S PATH

A mother bakes a fresh batch of brownies for a school bake sale and warns her son not to eat any before she leaves the kitchen to get ready. Suddenly, the little boy feels the pull of temptation. Right there on the table sits a warm, chocolatey brownie he has been smelling all day. He looks around to see if anyone is watching, trying to decide if he’ll get caught. Little does he know, he’s already caught—not by his mother, but by the power of sin within.

We’ve all been there. We’ve all given in. Maybe you’re in a hurry and need to turn around. You see a sign that says *No U-Turn*, but the road looks clear. You check your surroundings, see no one’s coming, and make the turn anyway. Or maybe you’re at work, buried under emails and deadlines, yet you feel the urge to sneak in a little online shopping on company time. You tell yourself, *“Everyone else probably does it too,”* and give in. Other times you resist the temptation, only to feel frustrated later, like missing out on a sale, and you wrestle with the “what if” all day.

Every day, we feel the power of temptation and sin, sometimes as a fleeting reward, sometimes as painful consequences. Moses is a great example of this struggle. **Hebrews 11:24–26** tells us, “By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.”

Moses rejected the pleasures of Pharaoh’s palace, pleasures and entertainments that rivaled any kingdom of the world. Instead, he chose suffering with God’s people. Make no mistake, sin offers very real pleasure. Talk to someone who has struggled with addiction, and they may tell you there’s no greater feeling than that first high. But it vanishes quickly, leaving them chasing an experience that never returns. The pleasures of sin are fleeting. That’s how sin works.

When we lash out in anger, it feels good for a moment to release the frustration, but the relief doesn’t last. When we’re stressed or discouraged, we may wallow in self-pity or look for escape in things like drugs, alcohol, immorality, or even comfort food. Sure, it dulls the pain, but only temporarily. What remains afterward is deeper: a further fall into shame and guilt.

Sin not only tempts us with pleasure; it also threatens us with punishment when we refuse. This is what Moses endured when he chose God’s people over Pharaoh’s house. It’s what Joseph experienced when he resisted Potiphar’s wife. Daniel faced the same threat when he refused to eat the king’s food and again when he continued praying to God despite a decree against it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were threatened with fire when they refused to bow before Nebuchadnezzar’s image.

Jesus reminds us in **Matthew 5:10–12**: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”


So how do we overcome sin’s power, its rewards of pleasure and threats of punishment? First, we must recognize sin for what it is. Picture it like a river’s current, pushing against us, trying to sweep us along. Each temptation urges us to bend to its will. But we have a choice. We can give in, which is easier in the moment, but **James 1:15** warns us that, “desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Or we can be like Joseph, Moses, Daniel, and the prophets—resisting sin and choosing God. Paul explains this battle in **Galatians 5:16–17**: “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.” The pull of the flesh is strong—so strong Paul even describes it as “the law of sin.”

Yet there is hope. **Romans 7:23–25** says, “but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.” Through Christ, we have the power to resist. We don’t have to gratify the desires of the flesh. Each day, with His strength, we can choose God’s path.

Andrew Spivey

**COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES**  
**Sunday Read – Mark 14:32-52**  
**Wednesday Read – Matt 26:57-75;**  
**John 18:12-14**

- Questions for last week’s reading of;  John 16 & 17.
- Questions:
- 1.Of what will the Comforter reprove the world?
  - 2.When the Spirit of truth comes, into what will he guide Jesus’ followers?
  - 3.What will the Father do when we ask?
  - 4.Who did Jesus pray for in John 17:9?
  5. How are we sanctified, and what is the truth?
- UPCOMING EVENTS**
- \* 4:15 Singing class first Sunday only\**  
*Truth Seekers every Sunday @ 5pm*
- August 26 - Young Professionals game night 6pm  
August 31- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing evening worship  
Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> – Labor day, church office will be closed  
Sept. 2 – TNT 6pm  
Ladies Bible class 6:30pm  
Sept. 11 – Elders/Deacons mtg 6:30pm  
Sept. 14 – Widows/Widowers Luncheon  
Sept. 16 – TNT 6pm  
Ladies Bible Class 6:30pm  
Sept. 18 - Senior Group 5pm  
Sept. 20 – Clean Up Day/church grounds 9am

**THANK YOU**

Dear church family, thank you all for the prayers, beautiful wreath, cards and phone calls and the love you have shown us for our precious Vycki. We love you all.

**Jack & Anita Cato**

*Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.*  
*Psalm 57:1*

**ORDER OF SERVICES**  
**SUNDAY**  
**August 24, 2025**  
**9:00 AM**  
**BIBLE STUDY**  
**(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)**

Song Leader.....Carl Newby  
Opening Prayer.....Fate Evans  
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

**10:00 AM SERVICE**

Welcome.....Garrett Rowlett  
Scripture Reading.....Jason Sever  
Song Leader.....Carl Newby  
Opening Prayer.....David Johnson  
Lord's Supper.....Bob Sever  
Servers.....N. Kemper, D. Thompson, Jon D. Senn  
T. Cummins, M. Ellis, B. Smith  
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
Closing Prayer.....Charlie Seals

**5:00 PM SERVICE**

Welcome.....Garrett Rowlett  
Song Leader.....Carl Newby  
Opening Prayer.....Jonathan Senn  
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
Lord's Supper.....Tony Butler  
Closing Prayer.....Bob Brown

**WEDNESDAY**  
**August 27, 2025**

Welcome.....Garrett Rowlett  
Song Leader.....Carl Newby  
Opening Pray.....Corey Nelsen  
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey  
Closing Prayer.....Tim Strickland  
Ushers for August.....R. Buck/ L. Clark  
Communion Care for August.....E/D Stephenson  
Door Greeters – West Door.....Z/A Tooley  
East Door.....B/M Smith  
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Diana Stephenson

**IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL**  
Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935  
Church Office.....615-452-3431

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# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

### SICK LIST

**Don Wilson** is home now doing some better.. **Larry Hammock**, uncle of Andrew Spivey is home and doing some better. **Joann Lockett**, mother of Darryl Lockett has been diagnosed with breast cancer. **Wayne Hunt**, cousin of Tim Cummins, had a bone marrow transplant. **Roscoe Smith**, father of Brent Smith is doing better. **Larry Bailey**, son of Tina Bailey had a checkup, cancer has shrunk some in lungs. Will go back to Dr. soon.



### PRAYER LIST

**Cathy Lemley; Jack & Anita Cato; Wanda Seals; Lena Baggett; Stella Messer; Hugh Fulford; Maddie Andrews; Mary Spivey; Ottis & Maxine Cothron; Shauna Lockett; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Sandi Jones; Pat Watson; Frances Catron; Jackie Williams; Pat Crump; Chuck Maxey; Max & Pat Lemley**, parents of Michael Lemley; **Heather Lemley** daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley; **Jean McCurdy** mother of Olivia Nelsen; **Ariel Clift**, niece of Tarina Brown; **Elaine Reynolds**, friend of Christie Coleman; **Alan Greene**, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; **Ty Tyler** son of Ann Tyler; **Ida Lou Sherrill**, mother of Alex Sherrill; **Taylor Lackford**, niece of Brenda Veale; **Dustin Lackford**, nephew of Brenda Veale; **Larry Conley**, friend of Wanda Proctor; **Harold Cole**, friend of Lena Baggett; **Bobbie Carter**, sister of Janice Johnson; **Walter Wooten**, brother of Wanda Sherrill; **Aza Topik**, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals.

### SHUT-INS

Jean Deaton, Mary Spivey.

*We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.*

### OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	88
Morning Worship.....	164
Sunday Evening.....	82
Wednesday Evening.....	77
Contribution.....	\$7,290.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$5,342.00

### Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621

### Deacons

Carl Newby	Jonathan Senn	Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson	Adam Williamson	



Phone (615) 452-3431

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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**ANDREW SPIVEY**, Pulpit and Family Minister  
**TIM STRICKLAND**, Associate Minister  
**GARRETT ROWLETT**, Youth Minister