

In Our Prayers...

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Ongoing Health Concerns — Vashara; Ryan Patrick; Ken Williard's daughter-in-law; Yolanda & Judy Woody; Cailin Porter; Bobby Arnett; Miriam Rodriguez; David Frederick; Rick Hales; Bill Harrell; Joe Shattuck; Josh Martin; Karen Crowson; Terry Wells.

Brad & Sarah McGlothlin (Nathan Wheeler) – Brad and Sarah, of Oklahoma City, plan to begin studies at Bear Valley this fall.

Door for the Word – Pray for relationships with the lost that lead to opportunities to talk about Jesus.

Announcements

July Potluck The July potluck fellowship is next Sunday, July 26th, immediately following our morning worship assembly. Please make plans to share this wonderful time around the family table!

A Merry Heart Does Good for the Soul

Actual excerpts from church bulletins:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Bring your husbands to the rummage sale to get rid of things not worth keeping.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5 PM – prayer and medication to follow.

The church of Christ in Durango

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Service Times

Bible Study

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Worship

Sunday 10:20 a.m.



July 19, 2026

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What Are Disputable Matters in Christianity?

By Renew.org

Not every belief carries the same weight. There are essential elements in Christianity: the grace of God revealed in the gospel of Jesus and our faithful, loyal response to Him. There are also important elements—hills worth being wounded defending because faithfulness to Jesus requires careful obedience. But today we want to talk about something else: the personal elements.

These are areas where Scripture either does not provide decisive clarity or where Scripture explicitly gives freedom. Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8 address this reality: eat the meat or don't eat the meat; observe the day or don't observe the day. Each one should be fully convinced in their own mind. That is remarkable—different beliefs and practices existing within the same church.

The apostles did not bind consciences where God had not bound them. They did not elevate personal conviction to universal command, nor did they confuse preference with holiness. Personal elements are written in pencil, not because they are careless, but because God in His wisdom left room—

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What Are Disputable Matters in Christianity?

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room for conscience, room for maturity, room for cultural difference, and room for growth.

These personal elements may include whether you drink wine or abstain, whether you observe special days or treat every day alike, how you understand certain details of creation, how you work through the timing of Christ's return, or how you interpret difficult prophetic passages. These are serious matters worth studying, discussing, and sharpening one another over. However, they are not worth dividing the body of Christ.

Here is where maturity shows. Can you hold a conviction strongly without holding it arrogantly? Can you believe you are right without assuming others are rebellious? Can you articulate your view without binding it on every other believer?

Personal elements require something beautiful. They require humility. They require open-handedness. They require trust that the Holy Spirit is at work in other believers even when they see things differently.

Clarity about categories protects unity. When we confuse personal matters with essential ones, we create unnecessary division. When we bind where God has given freedom, we damage consciences. But when we honor personal freedom, we display the beauty of the gospel.

We show that our unity is not built on uniformity. It is built on grace—strong convictions, soft hands, firm faith, and open hearts. This may be one of the most important lessons for the church in our moment: not everything is a hill to fight on.

Some hills are meant to be walked together with patience, understanding, and love. When we learn that, we do not weaken the church; we strengthen it. Mature disciples know what to hold in blood, what to hold in ink, and what to hold in pencil—with humility, freedom, and grace.

When the King Has Set You Free

Luke 8:26-39

Introduction: Every Christian is a _____ sinner.

1. The Word of the _____ Comes to Gerasene Country

2. Many Gerasene Folk _____ the Kingdom of God

3. The _____ of the Kingdom of God Begins in Gerasene Country

Conclusion: Imitate _____ as he followed Jesus.

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

July 20	Mon	Psalm 91 – 94
July 21	Tue	Psalm 95 – 98
July 22	Wed	Psalm 99 – 102
July 23	Thur	Psalm 103 – 106
July 24	Fri	Psalm 107 – 110