



**Christian Scoffers**  
Cory Waddell

**D**id you ever have a time as a kid (or maybe in adulthood) when you were legitimately mocked for something? It's not a lot of fun. Maybe you did something that struck others as less than intelligent. Maybe you asked a question everyone else believed to be obvious and elementary. Perhaps you expressed an idea that went against the crowd and faced ridicule for it. The Biblical term for such behavior is "scoffing." The image of scoffing is one that we're all familiar with. It usually entails a plethora of facial expressions: furrowed brows or "shocked" eyes or sneering smirks. There are the sound effects too: the huffs and chortles of incredulity. Then there are the words: "Why are they so blind?" "Are you kidding me!" "What a bunch of hogwash" (that's a good southern phrase). In the Bible, God's people are usually the recipients of such mockery, and we are encouraged to lean on the Lord for support as we stand for truth in our faith. What happens, though, when the Christians become the scoffers?

You see, scoffing is a human reaction rooted in our fallen nature, meaning, we Christians are just as capable of dishing it out as we are of taking it. Most of the time it rears its head when we begin talking about those who hold views contrary to the Bible or contrary to our interpretations of scripture. Have you ever taken part in a discussion on atheism and heard the absolute disbelief that "anyone could be so ignorant to think this all happened by accident!" Or maybe discussions about denominational groups who "just don't care about the Bible at all" because they don't understand the role of baptism?

Unfortunately, such talk is really easy to do when we are sitting in a Bible class or around a dinner table where everyone shares our same beliefs. It's even easy to do on social media where people often believe they don't really have to give an account for what goes out into the digital space. However, a scoffing attitude greatly hinders our ability to share Jesus

- Scoffing kills conversation. Do you like conversing with someone who belittles what you think
- Scoffing kills conversion. Do you find yourself drawn to a community that talks down to others and makes them feel small?
- Scoffing kills transformation. Jesus transforms us when we willingly accept the gift of his grace and Spirit through obedient faith. But he cannot change the life of someone who is convinced mockery is Jesus' modus operandi.

As Christians, we have been called to act in a way that is counter to the worldly nature we see around and in us. Christ redeemed us from such attitudes. Just because the world may scoff at us, does not mean we are entitled to return it. Instead, our speech is to be seasoned with salt and love (Col. 4:6; Eph 4:32). There is to be compassion with our passion, as exemplified by Jesus. May we never be scoffers, but rather faithful servants who speak with the power of truth and grace.

# WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- Kids in schools and the administrators
- **THE HEALTH OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION**
- **BARBIE AND LEE SMITH** The loss of her Brother and his Sister
- **MEDIA SLOAN** Recovery from surgery
- **CRISTY WORLEYS** Father Michael Dunn passed away
- **GREYSON ROPER** Senior at BHS has kidney failure and pneumonia
- **AMY SAVAGE** Ruth and Phillip's daughter has pneumonia
- **MICHAEL EDMONDSON**, has a fast spreading cancer, given 12-18 mos. to live.
- **DEVIN SOLIS**. David D's friend, had a heart attack and bypass surgery
- **LYN'D DUNNWOODY** Debbie's Brother in Law's Daughter, has breast cancer
- **MELISSA DEWBERRY** having back problems and will be receiving treatment
- **NATALIE KIZZIRE** encouragement in her walk with Christ
- **DEBORAH**, friend of Kitty, lost her 2nd husband in 3 years
- **KATIE**, friend of Kitty's daughter, has been having life struggles lately
- **JAMIE KELLEY**, James Hall's daughter, health struggles, is home still needs prayers
- **JAMES HALL** needing prayers and is needing encouragement
- **KOLIS GRANDMOTHER**, Keep her in your prayers
- **KENZI SWINDLE** and family she has cancer and is 4 yrs old and want to be home.
- **RUBY MILLIGAN**, Doug's SIL, has T-Cell Lymphoma. Pray for her and Don.

## ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 75  
Worship P.M. .... 38  
Wed P.M. ....41

## CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$2,393.00.

## BUDGET

Weekly.....\$3,000.00

Don Cicero	2/4
Monalisa Harbin	2/7
Juanita Watkins	2/8
Koli Nichols	2/15
Alex Harbin	2/16
Charlie Banks	2/18
Barbie Smith	2/19
Donna Dailey	2/20
Ruth Edwards	2/23
Izabella McDonald	2/28