

Prayer List



Bdays/Anniv.



To Our Visitors



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—unwell lately
- ◆ Lisa Mashburn—doctor for back and neck
- ◆ Jim Ward—chemotherapy, PET Scan soon
- ◆ Brenda Ray—back pain

Others in Need

- ◆ Thomas Bush—11 yrs. old, cancer
- ◆ Jennifer Cook—cancer surgery recovery in TX
- ◆ Tim Dixon—lymphoma; chemo
- ◆ Dalton Kitzan—hunting injury
- ◆ Harold Moore—fell from tree, broken back and ribs
- ◆ Howard Simon—released from hospital after car accident; others died in crash
- ◆ Scott Sweeney—broke both legs
- ◆ Wade Wilkerson—fell, broke several bones; not doing well
- ◆ Pray also for those who have lost loved ones, government leaders, our military, alien sinners, erring brothers/sisters, the church at Baker and worldwide.

December

- ◆ Richard Laux, Dec. 2

We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer to every Bible question (1 Peter 4:11).

Events



Privileged to Serve



- ◆ December 27th—
Fourth Wednesday Singing

Announcements—Leo Derrick
Song Leading—Caleb Howze (Wed.)
 David Howze (Sun.)
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Andrew Mashburn; Helpers: Wilfred Derrick, Ethan Howze, Mark Howze
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Leo Derrick
 Helper: Ethan Howze
Scripture Reading—Rick Laux

Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

December 10, 2017

Meeting Times

Sundays:

- 10AM Bible Class
- 11AM Worship
- 5:30PM Pew Packers
- 6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

- 7PM Bible Class

Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4
 P.O. Box 285
 Baker, FL 32531 USA
 850-669-9117

Website:

churchofChristatBaker.com

Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM

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The Gift That Slips Away

Jason Hilburn

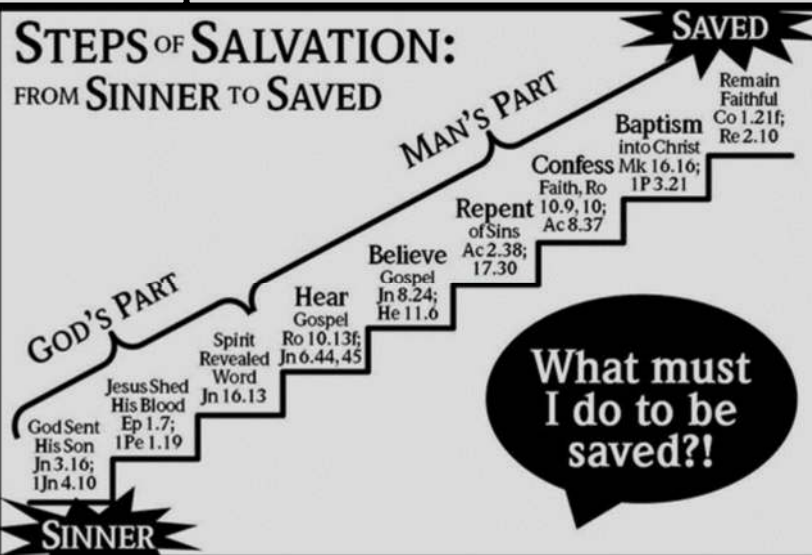
We all have been given so many wonderful gifts from God. James wrote, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). There is one gift on earth that is extremely precious, yet we can neither gain complete control over it, nor truly gain permanent possession of it. It is a gift that never comes wrapped in a box; a gift that cannot be experienced by any of the five senses; a gift of which all of us have temporary possession; and a gift that we may use as we wish. God has given every one of us this intangible treasure called "time."

How are we using the time God has given us? Moses wrote these words in Psalm 90: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). Paul said we must make wise use of our days: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:15-17). While Jesus was on earth, He understood that He needed to be about His Father's business: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4; cf. Lk. 2:49; 19:10).

Any elderly person will tell you how short their lifespan seems. Although time seems to become more valuable as we get older, time should seem as precious to a twenty-year-old person as it is for a ninety-year-old. The Lord is coming back at a time that we do not expect, and there will certainly be many

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
 (Romans 6:17).



What must I do to be saved?!

"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

young people caught off-guard by His return. Young people will be doing things such as getting married and carrying on with their normal lives when He returns. Just as the global flood took both young and old by surprise and swept them away, so will the coming of the Lord be:

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (Matthew 24:36-39); Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh (Matthew 24:44).

James wrote:

Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil (James 4:13-16).

James' words are reminiscent of Proverbs 27:1: *"Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."*

Peter said some will scoff and insinuate that the Lord is never going to return: *"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation"* (2 Peter 3:3, 4); but Peter reminded his readers that things have not been the same since the creation:

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men (2 Peter 3:5-7).

Peter said, *"one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"* (2 Peter 3:8). We need to remember that even if God made a promise two

thousand years ago, His promise is just as rock-solid today as it was the minute He made the promise. Remember, it was about four thousand years before God fulfilled the promise of Genesis 3:15!

Peter went on to explain that *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). God will keep His promise, but at this moment God is giving people the gift of time to repent; just as He did in the days when Noah was building the ark: *"And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years"* (Genesis 6:3); *"...once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing..."* (1 Peter 3:20). We should be aware that just as God's long-suffering came to an end in Noah's day, His *"spirit shall not always strive"* with us either.

Peter concluded that since we know that all of this is going to happen, why not be prepared? *"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"* (2 Peter 3:11-12; cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

God destroyed the earth by water once, and the next time He will bring fire. Will we be like those in Noah's day who scoffed at the inevitable unleashing of God's wrath, or will we use this precious gift of time that God has given us to live *"in all holy conversation and godliness"*?

The Book of Life and Falling from Grace

Jason Hilburn

The names of the saved are in the Lamb's book of life (Lk. 10:20; Php. 4:3; Rev. 21:27). Those not found in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:12-15). If the saved can never lose their salvation, why did God say that some names will be erased from the book of life? (Ex. 32:32, 33; Psa. 69:28; Rev. 3:5; 22:19).

Many say, "If a person is ever truly saved, he can never lose his salvation," but we know these were truly saved, because their names were in the book of life; and we know that later they were truly lost, because their eternal destination changed when their names were erased.

Friends, Satan wants you to believe that you are saved, and that you can never fall from grace. Listen to God instead (Gal. 5:4), and make sure you are doing His will (2 Cor. 13:5).