

Prayer List

Of Our Number

- ◆ Florene Howze—sick
- ◆ Lisa Mashburn—neurosurgeon
- ◆ Jim Ward—cancer recovery
- ◆ Brenda Ray—back pain

Others in Need

- ◆ Gary Booker—passed away
- ◆ Thomas Bush—11, cancer
- ◆ Serobia Chandler (J. Hilburn's grandmother)—not well lately
- ◆ Jennifer Cook—cancer
- ◆ Tim Dixon—lymphoma; chemo
- ◆ Dalton Kitzan—hunting injury
- ◆ Harold Moore—fell from tree, broken back and ribs
- ◆ Melanie Mursch—health problems
- ◆ Larry Laux—fell from tree stand
- ◆ Jason Rickmon—stage 3 cancer in esophagus and lymph nodes; chemo/radiation
- ◆ Scott Sweeney—broken legs
- ◆ Wade Wilkerson—fell, broke several bones; not doing well
- ◆ Pray also for those who have lost loved ones, gov. leaders, military, alien sinners, erring brothers/sisters, the church at Baker and worldwide.

Bdays/Anniv.

January

- ◆ Kynlie Lawson, Jan. 17

Events

- ◆ **January 24th**
4th Wednesday Singing
- ◆ **February 18-22**
26th Annual Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies Lectureship
- ◆ **May 6-11**
Our Homecoming Meeting with Jason Holladay speaking

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).

To Our Visitors

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).

Privileged to Serve

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

THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

January 21, 2018

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

Jason Hilburn's Info:

850-826-8198
 jasonhilburn@yahoo.com
 TheBibleDomain.com

Forgiveness

Billy Bland

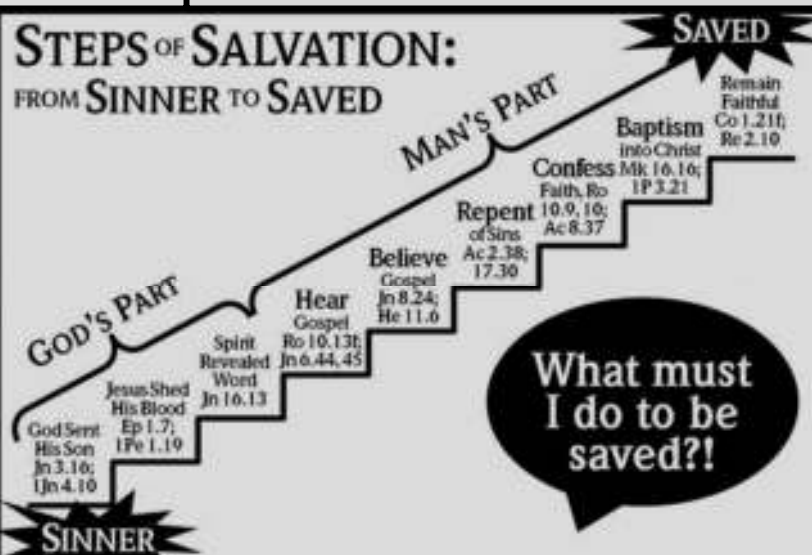
"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots" (Luke 23:34).

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:31-32).

Many blessings have been bestowed upon mankind. One of these great blessings is "forgiveness". The word "forgive" means to "send forth, send away to remit or forgive" (Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words, W.E. Vines, P. 122). It therefore, carries the thought as no offense has been committed.

Jesus made a remarkable statement while on the cross. Notice the word "Then said Jesus" in the first quote above. They had just crucified Jesus, and the Bible says - "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots" (Luke 23:34). What would you have wanted to do? If someone were torturing us, we likely would have desired revenge. When someone does us wrong today, do we desire that they be forgiven, or do

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).

we want personal revenge? Jesus wants us to be forgiven. This is a great love! A statement that I once heard that has been an encouragement to me is, "God wants you to go to heaven, even more than you want to go to heaven." However, for you and me to go to heaven, we must be forgiven. While forgiveness of sins is a gift from God, we must remember that some gifts are conditional. God has promised to forgive our sins on certain conditions. Therefore, only those that comply with the will of the Father will be forgiven - "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

THERE IS A UNIVERSAL NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

Sin separates one from God (Isa 59:1-2), and the Bible says all have sinned (Rm.3:23). No matter our race, social standing, etc., all are in need of forgiveness. Without forgiveness man is hopelessly lost—"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27). "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;" (II Thessalonians 1:7-9). Think about being lost for ever and ever. Again, think about it!

FORGIVENESS OF SINS IS IN CHRIST

Fortunately, God desires our forgiveness and has made provisions for such. God wants all people to come to repentance - "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" (II Peter 3:9). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

God stands ready to forgive, but one must be in God's appointed place in order to be forgiven. Forgiveness is in Christ - "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,

according to the riches of his grace;" (Ephesians 1:6-7).

HOW DOES ONE GET "INTO CHRIST?"

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" (Romans 6:3).

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

From the above two passages it is easy to see that the final step that puts one "into Christ" is baptism. Previous to this one's baptism, he must believe, repent and confess Christ. Then he is ready to be baptized into Christ wherein he has forgiveness of all his sins.

HOW DOES THE CHRISTIAN GET FORGIVENESS WHEN HE SINS?

Although the Christian has obeyed the gospel this doesn't mean he will never stumble nor make any mistakes. God has made it possible for His erring children to be forgiven. John wrote; "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (I John 1:6-10). We cannot be a faithful child of God and walk in darkness (sin). As we walk in the light, the blood of Christ cleanses us from all sin. When we do sin, we are to confess our sins and God has promised to forgive them.

Forgiveness of sin is indeed a great blessing. We can have the burden of our sins removed and obtain the hope of heaven through Jesus Christ. Have you been forgiven?

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:1-2).