

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ◆ Emma Derrick—tests on throat
- ◆ Florene Howze—health issues
- ◆ Milo Lasater—obstruction in kidney, undergoing tests
- ◆ Kynlie Lawson—virus, improved
- ◆ Jim Ward—cancer in remission

### Others in Need

- ◆ Liam Alexander—tonsils, adenoids to be removed 6/13
- ◆ Thomas Bush—11, cancer
- ◆ Mary Cobb—stroke
- ◆ Tim Dixon—sciatica
- ◆ Keith Grimes—doctor in Oct.
- ◆ Dawn Holloway—fibromyalgia
- ◆ Maxine Knoll—hospital; tests
- ◆ Patsy Luke—lung problems
- ◆ Michael Parish—home; physical therapy
- ◆ Jason Rickmon—home health after throat cancer surgery
- ◆ Sidney White—short of breath

Continued in next column...

◆ Pray also for those who have lost loved ones, first responders, police officers, government leaders, military, those traveling, alien sinners, those fallen away, the church at Baker and worldwide.

## Events



- ◆ June 16  
VBS at Leonard Street  
8:30AM-12:30PM  
Lunch provided
- ◆ July 1-6  
Laborers and Leaders  
Camp for young men,  
hosted by Milestone
- ◆ July 29-Aug. 1  
Gospel Meeting at  
Union Hill

**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 for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

## Privileged to Serve



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

# THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

June 10, 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

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## Suicide — Not A Safe Solution

(Part 2 of 2)

Jason Patrick Hilburn

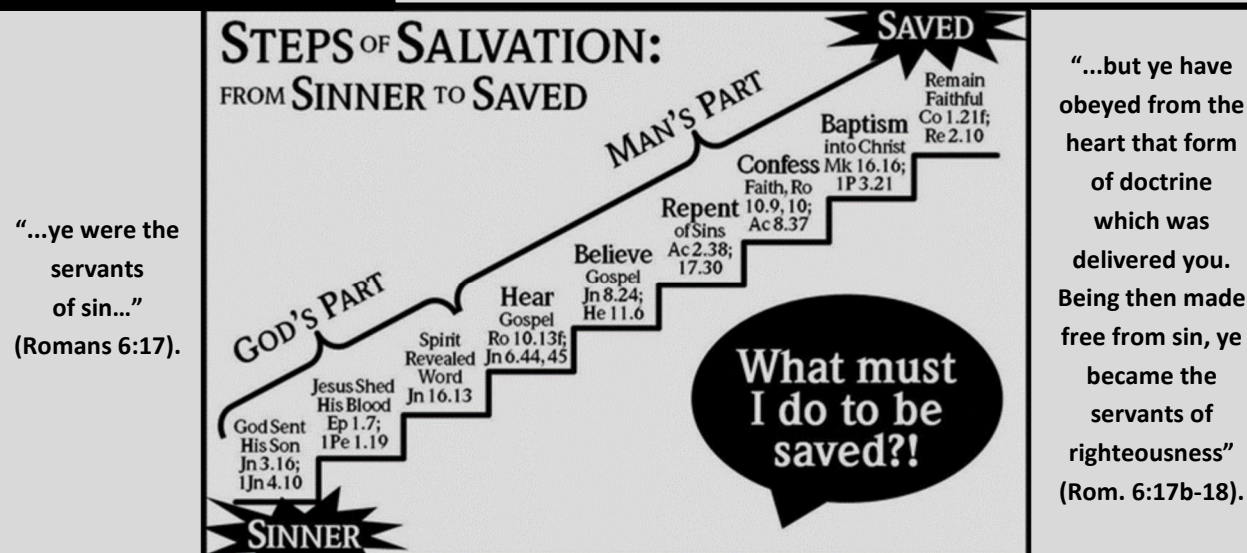
Paul taught Christians to endure and faint not: *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"* (Gal. 6:9). The same context teaches that men will reap what they sow: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7). What will a person who sows suicide hope to reap from it? (See also 2 Thess. 1:4-5; 1 Pet. 4:13-16; Rev. 1:9). One who commits suicide is apparently not willing to endure suffering; he is taking what he thinks is the easy way out.

### SERVICE IS STANDARD

Life is about fearing God and keeping His commandments (Ecc. 12:13). Think of all the commands that will not be obeyed if a person commits suicide, such as:

- Being a good steward of the time God gave us in this life (1 Cor. 4:1-2; Eph. 5:16).
- Studying God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15)
- Doing good deeds for others (Gal. 6:9-10).
- Teaching others the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:2).
- Worshiping God faithfully and regularly (John 4:23-24; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).
- Encouraging other Christians to be faithful so they will go to Heaven (Heb. 3:13-14; 10:23-25; 1 Thess. 5:11).
- Letting one's light shine before men (Matt. 5:16).
- Glorifying God in our actions (1 Cor. 10:31).
- Setting an example that others can safely follow (1 Cor. 11:1; Heb. 13:7).

## STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED



Paul instructed other Christians to follow his example, even as He followed Christ (1 Cor. 11:1). With that in mind, what if Paul had committed suicide after telling others to follow his example? What if all Christians committed suicide after conversion? Who would carry out the Great commission and all the other good works for God's will to be done on earth? Suicide is obviously not God's will for us!

Suicide also does not glorify God. It does not show a desire to serve God. Suicide is one of the most selfish acts a person could ever commit. Although the person under consideration is likely suffering a lot of pain, ultimately it shows that this person is not concerned about using his life to serve/submit to God, and he is apparently not very concerned about the horrible effect this will have on others. It shows a lack of love for God, others, and self. That goes against what Jesus called the greatest commandments in God's Word:

*Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matt. 22:36-40).*

Notice that Jesus said one should love himself. How does killing one's self demonstrate a love for self, neighbors, and God? Yet, these were said to be the greatest commandments of all!

#### **SWAYED BY SATAN**

One's view of God's salvation and grace can actually have a bearing on whether or not a person gives in to temptations to commit suicide. Some of today's popular religious teachings can actually encourage suicidal tendencies rather than discouraging them. For example, if someone who believes in Jesus is contemplating suicide, a false doctrine such as "faith only" salvation could actually encourage something like this. If a person is told that as long as He believes in Jesus he is going to Heaven, then according to that doctrine, the sin of suicide would not keep the believer from Heaven (and neither would any other sin). The phrase "*faith only*" is found in the Bible once, but it is preceded by the words "*not by*": "*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only*" (James 2:24; cf. 2:14-26; Acts 10:34-35; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Pet. 1:22; Matt. 7:21-23; Heb. 5:9; Rev. 20:12-14, etc.).

There are also perverted views of God's grace that allow people to commit all kinds of sins and give people a false sense of hope who have not repented of those sins. Those who do not repent (change) will face God's wrath in judgment (Acts 17:30-31; 1 Cor. 5:5; Gal. 5:19-21). God's grace teaches us to live in holiness and obedience: "*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world*" (Titus 2:11-12; cf. Rom. 6).

The false doctrine that one cannot fall from grace could also deceive people into thinking suicide would be acceptable. If one is told that once he is saved he can never fall from God's grace, then according to that teaching he can do whatever he wants (even commit suicide) and never fall from grace. There could not be a more dangerous doctrine for Christians to believe (2 Cor. 6:1; Gal. 5:4; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; Heb. 10:23-31, etc.). If it were impossible for a Christian to fall from grace and be lost, why all the admonitions to be faithful unto death in the New Testament? The majority of the New Testament was written to Christians to encourage them not to lose their reward (2 John 8). For example, the following words were written to Christians, called "*holy brethren*" (Heb. 3:1):

*Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness*

*springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears (Hebrews 12:15-17; cf. 3:1; 1 Cor. 5).*

True faithfulness necessarily involves obedience, although many would accuse Christians of being "legalists" or a teachers of "salvation by works" for teaching such. In any case, we can only speak as the Bible speaks (Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11), and the Bible teaches that the Christian who willfully sins after being baptized to wash away his sins must repent of that sin and confess it to God in prayer to be forgiven (Acts 8:12-13, 22-24; 1 John 1:6 – 2:6).

#### **SCRIPTURAL SYMPATHY**

Another thing to mention is that we must be careful about how we publicly react to suicides. If we give people the false impression that everybody who commits suicide goes to Heaven, then this may encourage people to kill themselves. Statements can be made such as, "Nobody in his right mind would kill himself," and someone may argue that anyone who commits suicide is not mentally capable of being held accountable. Although that can be the case with some individuals, I do not believe that is always the case. On the other hand, harshly openly condemning those who commit suicide can hurt a lot of people, so the subject must be handled carefully.

There are many types of situations that the Bible may condemn, but the situation must be handled tactfully. What if an impenitent homosexual dies of AIDS, and his mother asks if her son will be in Heaven? We know what the Bible says: "*Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire*" (Jude 7). What if an impenitent fornicator dies in sin, and his mother wants to know if he will be in Heaven? (cf. 1 Cor. 5:1-5; Gal. 5:19-21). The Christian cannot compromise what God has said, but he must speak the truth in love and use wisdom in his approach to answering such questions (Eph. 4:15; Col. 4:5-6).

#### **CONCLUSION**

Because of what the Bible teaches, I believe suicide is against God's will (and is therefore sinful—1 John 3:4). However, Jesus will be the ultimate Judge in every case. If someone had something seriously wrong with his brain, so that he could not think and reason properly, I believe Jesus will take that into consideration in judgment. With that said, I am not talking about the sane person who chose to intoxicate himself and willfully cause his brain to function incorrectly. Suicide often occurs after one chooses to impair his brain through alcohol or other drugs. Becoming mentally impaired for recreational purposes is sinful, and those who choose to do this open themselves up to all kinds of dangers (suicide and otherwise) by impairing the brain's ability to function. The Bible clearly says that those who do such things will not go to Heaven (Gal. 5:19-21).

Jesus will judge by His Word those who have the ability to reason and understand (John 12:48), and His Word teaches against taking one's own life. Young people need to be taught from an early age that things like fornication, drunkenness, and suicide are not options for people who want to go to Heaven. Many times that type of teaching and exemplary living does not exist in the home, and sadly, tragedies occur. May we do all we can to serve the Savior, endure suffering, and discourage others from committing sins like suicide.

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