

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

- ◆ Thomas Bush—11, cancer
- ◆ Annette Cates—much better
- ◆ Mary Cobb—stroke
- ◆ Tim Dixon—sciatica
- ◆ Keith Grimes—good gene!
- ◆ Dawn Holloway—fibromyalgia
- ◆ Maxine Knoll—hospital; tests
- ◆ Michael Parish—home; physical therapy
- ◆ Jason Rickmon—home health after throat cancer surgery
- ◆ Luis Sanchez—brain surgery recovery
- ◆ 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 3 Fellowship meal after morning worship
- ◆ June 3-7 Gospel Meeting at Sasser 7:30PM M-TH
- ◆ 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).

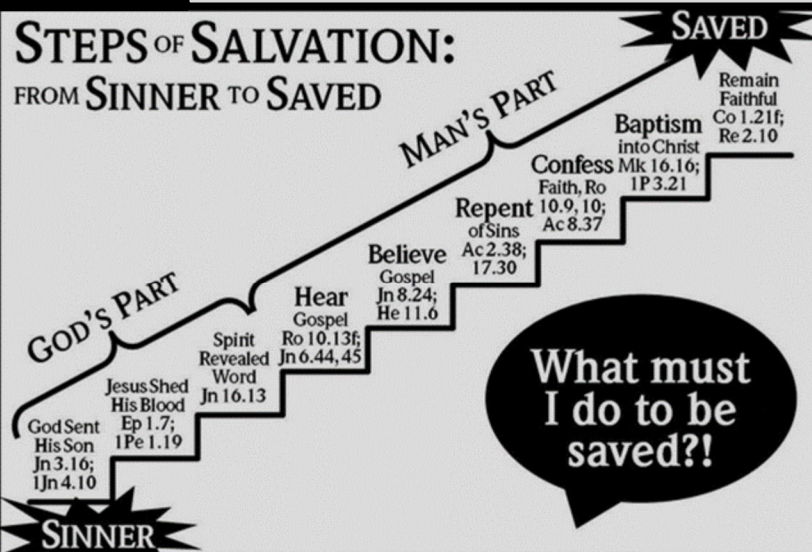
Privileged to Serve



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

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

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



"...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).

THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

June 3, 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

Suicide — Not A Safe Solution

Jason Patrick Hilburn

Suicide is something that has permeated many families, including my own. When we know people who do this, or when famous people commit suicide, it brings this subject to the forefront of our minds and can cause a lot of questions. What would cause a person to do this? Will those who commit suicide go to Heaven? Let's notice a few things about suicide from a Biblical perspective.

SEPARATE SITUATIONS

Every situation is different. When asking if someone who committed suicide will be in Heaven, we might first ask if he was a faithful Christian before his suicide. If not, then the issue of suicide in his case is irrelevant. If he was an accountable person who was not a Christian, the Bible says he will not be in Heaven, no matter how he died (John 8:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12). Those who do not obey the Gospel exactly the way God said and live faithfully afterwards will be punished forever (Matt. 7:21-23; 25:41, 46; Acts 2:38-41; 19:1-5; 22:16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Heb. 10:23-31; Rev. 2:10, etc.). The exceptions would be someone too young to be held accountable or someone with a mental disability beyond his control causing his brain not to function correctly (Deut. 1:39; Isa. 7:16). So the question of whether or not an accountable alien sinner goes to Heaven if he commits suicide is a moot point, but the question of a true child of God doing such and going to Heaven is worthy of further study and discussion.

THE SIN OF SUICIDE

People are created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26), and life is

a precious gift from God which must not be taken for granted. Man does not have authority to murder anyone—whether it be murdering someone else, or murdering himself. After Judas' suicide, this was said: *“And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place”* (Acts 1:24-25). Judas fell and went to his own place, which seems to indicate that he went somewhere different than where the rest of the apostles were going (torment vs. paradise – Luke 16:19-ff; 23:43). Notice also what Jesus said: *“The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born”* (Matt. 26:24). Why would it have been better for Judas to have never been born? This statement seems to indicate a punishment of eternal hell for Judas. Judas was not like Peter, who denied Christ and later repented and grew stronger from his mistakes (Luke 22:32; Acts 4:18-20; 5:29; 1 Peter 5:1-ff). We have all made mistakes and committed sins, but how will we react to sin and suffering? The example of Peter is the one to imitate—not Judas.

The Bible teaches that sins must be repented of (during this lifetime) to be forgiven (Heb. 9:27). We will be judged by the things done in our physical bodies: *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”* (2 Cor. 5:10). If suicide is a sin (I maintain that it is against God's will, and is therefore sin), I do not know how a person would repent of suicide and get forgiveness, because he would already be in the realm of departed spirits (Luke 16:19ff; Acts 8:22-24; Heb. 9:27; 1 John 1:9). The rich man in torment in Hades did not have a chance to repent and cross over to the place of comfort (Luke 16:19-ff). What he had done in his physical body had “sealed his fate,” so to speak.

SUFFERING IS STANDARD

Christians must learn to endure suffering like Job, who refused to *“curse God and die,”* although he was suffering terribly (Job 2:9). James said suffering Christians should look to the examples of suffering prophets and Job:

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy” (James 5:10-11).

Even as a saved child of God, life can be very difficult. It's true that even the apostle Paul eagerly anticipated leaving this life (although not through suicide). Though Paul knew something much better was in the future, he understood that he needed to remain here to do God's will as long as he could. He also knew that if he died, he wanted it to be in a way that magnified God:

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you (Philippians 1:20-24).

Although life was difficult for Paul (2 Cor. 11:22-28), suicide was not an option for him! Suicide would display despair—not hope, and suicide would not magnify Christ at all.

Suicide would also not be following Christ's example. Christ did not commit suicide to take the easy way out and get out of his responsibility to His Father. He prayed in emotional agony to God in the Garden (Luke 22:44) and went on to endure the shameful torture of the cross (Matt. 27). Christ taught that God's children should pray in times of distress, and not give up (Luke 18:1). Paul followed Jesus' example of perseverance in the face of difficulties. Paul was stoned to the point of death, beaten many times, suffered shipwrecks, thrown into prisons, and probably suffered more than anyone we know today, but suicide was not an option for him (2 Cor. 11:22-28).

What about other Christians of the early church? In all the admonitions for Christians to be faithful in the New Testament in the midst of cruel persecutions, why did God never suggest suicide as a quicker, easier way out? In the days of the early church, Christians were not simply being mocked—they were being thrown into Roman arenas to be killed and eaten by lions. They were being killed left and right in other terrible ways, and even most of the apostles were killed for their faithfulness. Christians were told by Jesus that they would be tortured and imprisoned, but He said they must be faithful until they died to get a crown of life (Rev. 2:10). They were not told to go ahead and commit suicide to get to Paradise quicker! Why was suicide never suggested? It is obviously not God's will. When something is against God's will, there is a term for that—it is called sin (1 John 3:4). Suicide was not an option for faithful Christians of the early church who were suffering greatly, and is still not an option today for those who want to go to Heaven.

All Christians will suffer (2 Tim. 3:12), and we must be willing to suffer through hardships of life to go to Heaven:

Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us (2 Timothy 2:9-12).

To be continued next week, if God wills...