

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Emma Derrick—sick
- ◆ Lisa Mashburn--surgery postponed
- ◆ Anna Erickson—tonsils, adenoids to be removed 9/13
- ◆ Florene Howze—hip and back problems
- ◆ Laura Laux—hurt her neck
- ◆ Hannah Lawson—test results
- ◆ Jim Ward—not well lately

Others in Need

- ◆ Thomas Bush—11, cancer
- ◆ Tim Dixon—sciatica
- ◆ Keith Grimes—doctor in Oct.
- ◆ Briana Howze—upper G.I. soon
- ◆ Wanda Hunter—kidney, gall bladder removed; PET scan soon
- ◆ Vandan Kumar (Jason's weekly translator)—breathing issues
- ◆ Patsy Luke—stints on 9/6
- ◆ Jason Rickmon—home health
- ◆ Donald Simon—surgery 9/13

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



Oct. 14-18
Our Gospel Meeting with various speakers

Theme: *Practical Principles from Proverbs*

Nov. 3
Ladies Day, Leonard Street church of Christ

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

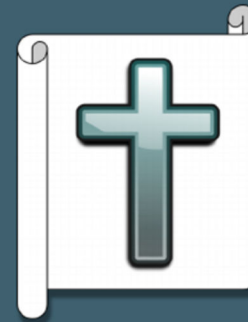


We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve



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



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

September 9, 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
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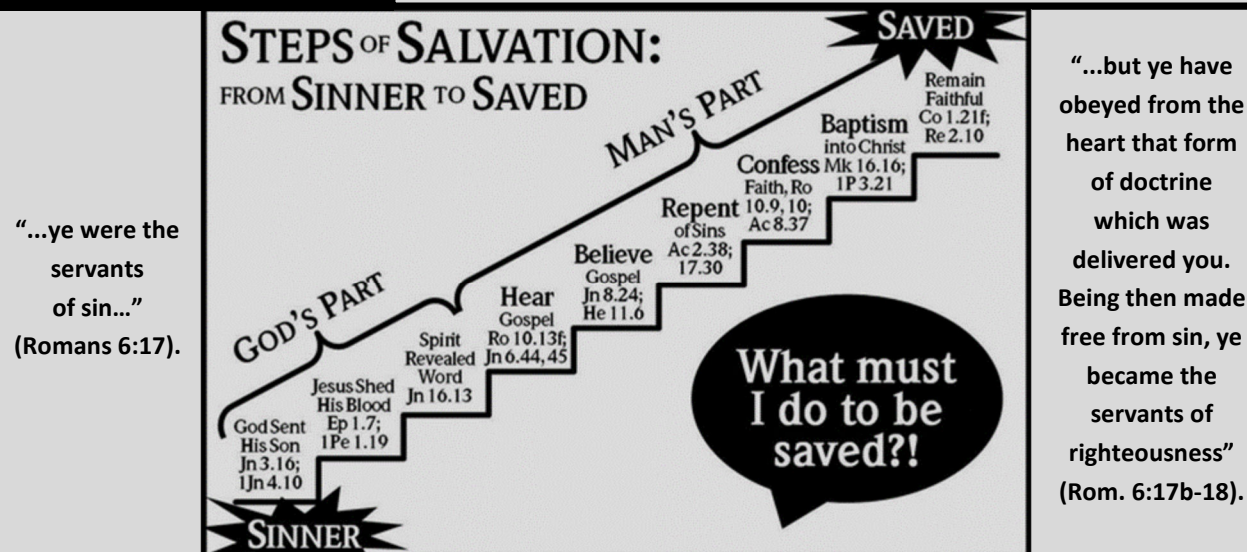
Cutting Off Conversation

Jason Patrick Hilburn

In the world of politics, there are many disagreements and controversial topics that can stir up emotions such as anger. Often it seems that when one side cannot defend their position logically, they resort to irrational behavior such as name calling, vulgarity, or even acts of violence. They refuse to have an intelligent conversation, perhaps because they know their position will not stand the test of scrutiny. They typically resort to *ad hominem* arguments that attack people personally (rather than logically addressing the positions people hold), or quite often they simply shut down all conversation.

Similar situations often arise in the realm of religious discussion. Some will discuss religion gladly, and some refuse. Still others are initially eager, but soon refuse to continue because they cannot defend their beliefs. Those who have studied thoroughly and have made the necessary changes in their lives to match up with what the Bible says have a certain confidence that many others do not. This is not arrogance, but simply the assurance that God wants all of His faithful children to possess: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (1 Jn. 2:3). Knowing what the Bible says, and knowing that we are following it gives us a "boldness" that is Biblical: "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world" (1 Jn. 4:17; cf. 5:3; Jn. 8:31-32; Eph. 3:4, 12; 5:17; Rom. 8:16). This boldness is not only regarding the Judgment, but in having discussions with people of different religions, as God commands us to do (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 9:22;

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED



19:8-9; 1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Titus 1:11; 1 Pet. 3:15; Jude 3).

Faithful members of the church of Christ generally love to talk about the Bible, God, and religion in general. We know we do not deserve salvation (Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:8), and we are not beyond the possibility of sinning (1 John 1:7-10; cf. 2:1-6); but we also know there is only *“one faith”* (Eph. 4:5), and the Bible both provides and validates the system of faith we believe and practice (2 Tim. 3:16-17; cf. 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 4:6, 17). That Biblical system of faith has been, and can still be, defended decisively (Php. 1:17). We dare not deviate from God’s perfect pattern (Col. 3:17).

Jesus demands that after we get our lives right, we **must** go to others and teach them how to “get right” with God (Matt. 7:5; 28:19-20; Jn. 7:24). Some already know God’s will, but constantly live in direct opposition to it with no true remorse (Gal. 6:1; 2 Cor. 7:10; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; James 5:19-20). Some are in complete ignorance of God’s will (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). There are also many sincere religious people who have been deceived by false teachings under the guise of true Christianity, and they need the Truth (Matt. 7:13-23; Jn. 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:22). However, in my experience, it is extremely difficult to get people to talk about the most important matters in life! (eternal matters). Some seem very eager to talk about spiritual matters initially, but when they are kindly shown exactly what the Bible says (which often contradicts their actions or beliefs), they immediately shut down the whole conversation. Why is there a sudden lack of interest in discussing spiritual matters? Where is the willingness to change when one sees that what he has believed or practiced in the past is completely absent from (or contradictory to) the Bible? If I am the one who is wrong, do you not love me enough to teach me? (Eccl. 7:5; Psa. 141:5; Prov. 9:8,9; 19:25; 27:5,6; 28:23; Gal. 4:16).

Someone may try to defend those who refuse to discuss these matters of eternal importance, saying they may not have studied enough to defend what they practice; however, God commands them to be ready to give an answer (1 Pet. 3:15), and they should have been like the Bereans, who searched the Scriptures daily and refused to do anything they could not find authorized in God’s Word! (Acts 17:11; cf. Col. 3:17; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 2:15-18; 1 Pet. 4:11). Those in error could still potentially be right with God in the future—all they need is a humble heart willing to study and change where necessary! I often study with preachers in all kinds of denominations (taking a loving, patient approach). These men have spent years in study, and as a general rule they all shut down conversation when they realize that they cannot defend what they teach and practice (all glory to God for His indestructible Word). They need the attitude of Apollos, but such is rare indeed (Acts 18:24-28).

The good news is that there are people out there who are honest and truly want to do God’s will (Lk. 8:15). They truly love God and will change when shown the simple Truth of God’s Word. Dear reader, are you one of those precious few who love Truth more than tradition, or do you shut down all conversation when you realize you are wrong and refuse to change?

Assurance

The word “assurance” is a word which we learn and understand from a very young age. When reading the New Testament, this word is translated five times and carries the idea of persuasion. The five texts wherein the word “assurance” is used are: Acts 17:31, Col. 2:2, 1 Thess. 1:5, Heb. 6:11, 10:22. In these texts assurance is given concerning the resurrection, understanding, the word, hope and faith.

“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ” (Col. 2:2). Paul was writing unto the brethren at Colosse to encourage them to remain faithful in Christ, as well as the saints at Laodicea. His desire was for these brethren to be united in the love in Christ Jesus and the “full assurance of understanding” concerning the mystery of God. This mystery is described in Col. 1:27 as the Gospel of Jesus being taught to the Gentiles. We should also enjoy this assurance of understanding.

Paul also gave assurance to the Thessalonians concerning the Gospel. This is the same Gospel we have today. This is the Gospel everyone must have to be saved (Rom 1:16). Not that man today will receive the Gospel through a miracle, because the word has already been confirmed (Heb. 2:1-4); but because of this confirmation we also enjoy this same assurance of the Gospel. “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake” (1 Thess. 1:5).

The Hebrews writer wrote of the “full assurance of faith”: “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb. 10:22). Then in Heb. 11:1 he wrote, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for...” The word “substance” could also be described as assurance, that which persuades us in our faith of the faith. The faith being the system of doctrine of Jesus Christ, which assurance the Christian enjoys because of Christ.

The Hebrews writer recorded, “And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end” (Heb. 6:11). These words were written to encourage the Hebrew Christians to remain faithful to Christ, not to go back to the law of Moses, for there was no salvation to be found in the old law. Man today must realize that the “full assurance of hope” is found only in Christ (Acts 4:12).

God gives the great assurance of the resurrection, because He brought His Son forth from the grave, “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31).

For what assurances are you looking, and what assurances do you have in your life? The previously mentioned assurances can be yours, but only through obedience to Christ.

—Tim Hayes, slightly adapted