

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—health problems
- ◆ Eloise Hoffman—lung cancer
- ◆ Florene Howze—improving
- ◆ Ann Moss—back surgery Monday, Feb. 18
- ◆ Jim Ward—scan results soon

### Others in Need

- ◆ Susie Burke (Laura Laux' mother)—surgery in March
- ◆ Thomas Bush—12, cancer
- ◆ Whitney Derrick—expecting
- ◆ Chloe Fleming (Jason's niece)—liver disease
- ◆ Teresa Hammans' family
- ◆ Wanda Hunter—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Vernie Mann (Chris Wynn's mother)—health problems
- ◆ Brenda Mateer—stage 4 cancer; surgery Feb. 20

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



Feb. 22

*Faith and Fellowship*

Feb. 27

*4th Wednesday Singing*

May 5-10

*Our Gospel Meeting with various speakers*

## 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

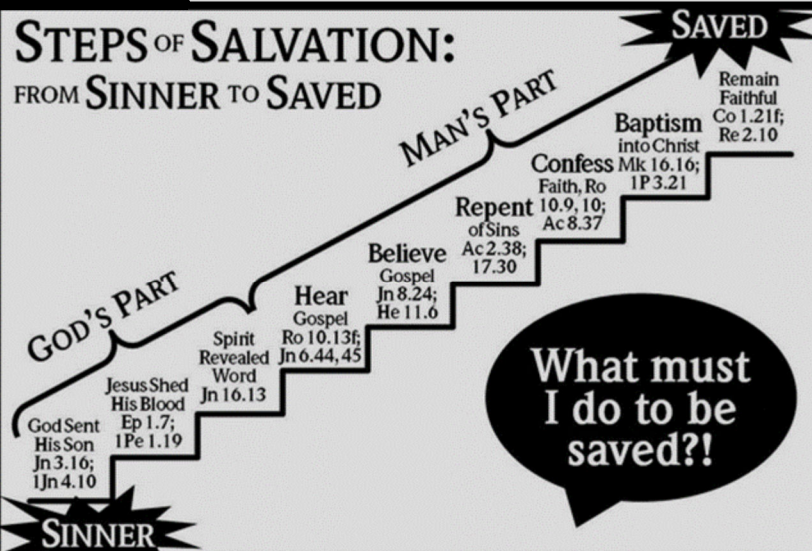


**Announcements**—Leo Derrick  
**Song Leading**—David Howze (Sun.)  
 Mark Howze (Wed.)  
**Serving the Lord's Supper**  
 Head: Glenn Howze; Helpers: Wilfred Derrick, Ethan Howze, Josh Lawson  
**Lord's Supper PM**  
 Head: Mark Howze  
 Helper: Braden Hilburn  
**Scripture Reading**—Braden Hilburn

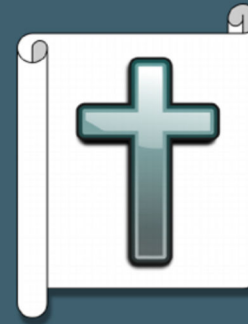
**Faithful Worship** — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** 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).

## 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

February 17, 2019

## 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:

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 TheBibleDomain.com

## Don't Be a High Maintenance Christian

"Maintenance" is not exactly the most exciting word. It's hard to get excited about maintenance. It's not something that gets the blood flowing, is it? Consider the matter of maintaining your car. Cars are an essential part of the society in which we live. And cars can be fun. But the not-so-fun thing about cars is that they have to be maintained. Maintenance is not exciting, but it's better than walking.

The Christian life must be maintained also. We have to take care of ourselves spiritually. As Christians we are expected to grow into maturity (2 Pet. 2:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:18). Christians must continually give themselves to things that will enhance their spiritual growth (e.g. regular Bible study and prayer, fellowship and encouragement, worship, evangelism, service).

An important part of our Christian lives is the work of helping other Christians to maintain their faith and stability. We're called upon to look after the needs of others in the faith (Phil. 2:4; Eph. 4:7-16; Gal. 6:1). This can be both a taxing and rewarding work, but a necessary one. And just as we need to look out for the spiritual welfare of others, even so we need others to look out for us.

Considering your own Christian life and spiritual maturity, do you consider yourself a high maintenance or low maintenance Christian? We all need maintenance, but some need more than others. We should expect new converts to need more

encouragement and direction than older Christians. But the object is to grow steadily and sufficiently so that our faithfulness to the Lord is not as dependent on others as it was when we started down the path of faith. I have known Christians who have been in the church for many years who need a high degree of input and encouragement from other believers or they will drop out. I have known mature Christians and church leaders who seemingly invest a large amount of their energy just maintaining the faith of other Christians who never seem to grow up. This is not what the Lord intended. He doesn't want us to always be tapping the time and energy of other believers, and robbing the church of resources it could use to bring others into the kingdom.

One of the things each Christian should realize (as quickly as possible when they come into the family of God) is that spiritual growth is mandated by the God of Heaven. He expects you to grow into maturity. Growth is not just a good idea, it's a command. Furthermore, growth is not just a command, it's essential to the development and work of the kingdom. It is just as essential to salvation to grow into Christlikeness as it is to hear the Word, believe in Christ, repent of sins, confess faith in Christ, and be immersed for the remission of sins. To grow or not to grow is not an option for the child of God.

As a Christian, I will always need maintenance. I will never reach a point where I do not need to study the Bible, and pray, and worship, and need the encouragement and fellowship of other Christians. There will be times in my life, as there will be for every Christian, when I will need the aid, comfort, and counsel of wiser Christians. But I never want to be high-maintenance. I don't want my faith to be dependent on others "dragging me to church," when that's a decision that I should have already made as a Christian. I don't want my faith to be such that I have to be coaxed to speak to others about faith in Christ. It is a blessing to receive strength and encouragement from others, but the greater blessing comes in being able to give back; to reach a point spiritually that you become a pillar of strength and assurance for others.

So let's strive to be low-maintenance Christians. We will always be dependent on the Lord, But we should strive to be less dependent on the time, energy, and resources of other believers. Let's get better at giving than receiving. And may the kingdom of God be enriched by the fruit we bear to Christ's glory!

by Brian Giselbach, shared via the Sharon church of Christ bulletin

## Keep Going!

Jason Patrick Hilburn

Many times in history men have become discouraged in their service to God. Men like Joshua, Jonah, and Jeremiah lost their determination to serve God, yet each found the courage to continue. We can also become discouraged, and the examples of these men should motivate us to be persistent in our service to God.

Joshua was a great leader of God's people. There is hardly anything negative written about Joshua in the Scriptures, but there was a time when he seemed to doubt the power and providence of God. After God's people fled before the men of Ai, Joshua rent his clothes, put dust on his head, and insinuated that God had neglectfully deserted His people (Joshua 7:4-9). God then said to Joshua, "*Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned. . .*" (Joshua 7:10-11). Just as there was no need for Joshua to become discouraged and doubt the power and providence of God, we should also trust in God always to take care of us if we put away the sin in our lives (Matthew 6:25-34).

God had commissioned Jonah to go preach in Nineveh, and Jonah foolishly thought that he could escape the presence of the Lord: "*But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord*" (Jonah 1:3). Of course God knew where Jonah was, and God punished Jonah for disobeying Him. In our service to God, we may be faced with a task from which we would like to run, but we should remember that there is no hiding from God. Jonah finally carried out his mission and the entire city of Nineveh repented! If God could make the great city of Nineveh repent through the actions of one man, we should trust God enough to believe that He can make us successful in any task which lies before us (Philippians 4:13).

Like many of God's prophets before him, Jeremiah had faced adversity for proclaiming the message of God (Jeremiah 20:1-2). One might say that Jeremiah had become "weary in well doing" due to this persecution: "*Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay*" (Jeremiah 20:9). Although Jeremiah had considered quitting, the Word of the Lord was as a burning fire in his bones, and there was absolutely no way he could hold it inside. Paul wrote that the Word is to be in us also (Colossians 3:16), and the truth of God's Word should motivate us to serve the Lord, just as it did Jeremiah.

These great men of God kept going, despite adversity and discouragement. Although we are not living under the same conditions as these men, there will still be opposition and adversities ahead of us, if we faithfully serve the Lord (2 Timothy 3:12). May we always be persistent, and may our trust be in the Lord, not in ourselves (1 Corinthians 15:58; Matthew 19:26). "*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*" (Gal. 6:9).