

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—health problems
- ♦ Eloise Hoffman—lung cancer
- ♦ Florene Howze—health problems
- ♦ Hannah Lawson—expecting
- ♦ Jim Ward—health problems

### Others in Need

- ♦ Al Aplin—cancer
- ♦ Deb Aplin—surgery recovery
- ♦ Ken Blackford—health issues
- ♦ Belinda Crawford and family
- ♦ Eugene Crowe (Martha Wynn's grandfather)—health problems
- ♦ Whitney Derrick—heart issues
- ♦ Bob Duke—health problems
- ♦ Kristin Erickson—better; therapy
- ♦ Amelia Hogan (Wynns' niece)—cystic fibrosis; respiratory infection
- ♦ Wanda Hunter—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Thad McCall—cancer
- ♦ Phillip Vanwinkle—stage 5 cancer; critical condition

Continued in next column...

♦ Chris Wynn's father and mother—health problems

- ♦ Martha Wynn—severe tooth pain
- ♦ Pray also for those who have lost loved ones, first responders, police officers, government leaders, military, those traveling, alien sinners, those fallen away, our enemies, the church at Baker and worldwide.

## 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).

## Events



**October 13-17**  
*Our Gospel Meeting with Garland Robinson preaching*

## Privileged to Serve



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

# THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

July 28, 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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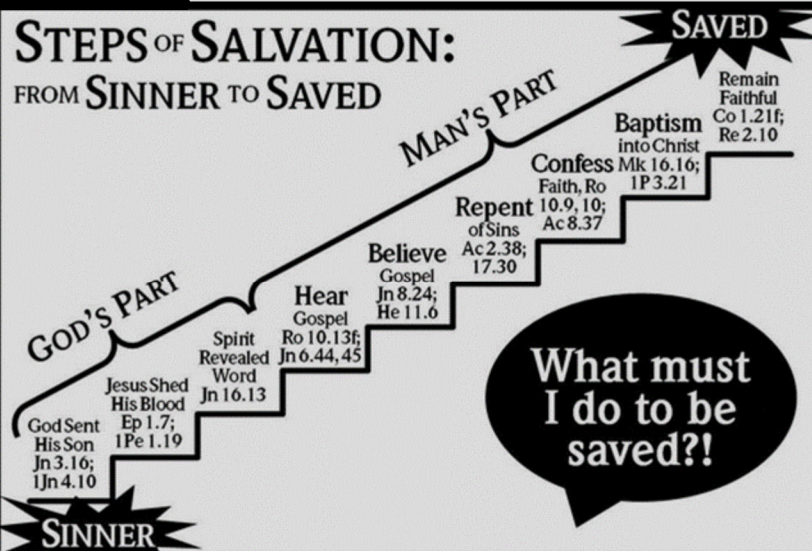
## A Few Words from Jason

Last Friday's online Bible study with denominational preachers in India went very well. 22 preachers from various denominations attended, along with 4 Gospel preachers. I was asked to teach on Revelation and the Old Testament Prophets, which is a lot of ground to cover in one class. I chose to teach about the false doctrine of Premillennialism and how it misuses Revelation and the Old Testament Prophets. I asked for a Scripture teaching that Jesus will return to earth to reign in an earthly kingdom, and they could give none (because there are none). He will return in the clouds on the last day (the day of resurrection and final judgment -- John 5:27-29; 6:44; 11:24; 12:48; Acts 24:15; 1 Thess. 4:13—5:3). When I opened it up for any questions, they had questions about Matthew 24 and the resurrection of Matthew 27:52, 53, which were answered. Even though these classes have been refuting what they have been believing and teaching, I'm trying to teach with love and patience, and God be thanked, they continue to attend (2 Timothy 2:24-26). Thanks to Vandan Kumar for all his work setting this up and doing so much behind the scenes. By the way, I share things like this to encourage and edify others, not to promote myself. All glory belongs to God. Paul did the same: "...he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord..." (Acts 21:19, 20; cf. 14:27; 15:4). I want people to see that even though doctrines like Premillennialism are very widespread, they have no defense in light of the Scriptures.

This week's article is one that Curtis Cates asked me to write for *The Gospel Journal* before he passed away. He was a mentor and one of the greatest teachers and encouragers I ever had. Brother Cates was outspoken against the doctrine of praying to Jesus and the Holy Spirit, which reared its head in the brotherhood in earnest a few years ago.

## 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 Question of Praying to the Holy Spirit

Jason Patrick Hilburn

Should Christians pray to the Holy Spirit? Considering the clarity with which the Scriptures teach men to pray exclusively to the Father, one may wonder why this question even needs asking. Sadly, some openly teach that Christians may address the Holy Spirit in prayer. What are the repercussions if Christians begin believing such a doctrine? In the future, will congregations all over the world be praying to the Holy Spirit in worship assemblies? This is a dangerous doctrine which needs to be answered.

## Deity's Distinctions

Those who advocate praying to the Holy Spirit also advocate praying directly to Jesus. One of the foundational tenets of their doctrine is that Christians may pray to Jesus and the Holy Spirit simply because they are Deity. This doctrine also alleges that to refuse to address one of God's "equal natures" in prayer is to dishonor Deity and go against the basic teachings of Christianity. It also implies that no significant distinctions can be made regarding the Members of the Godhead.

However, the truth is that there are divine instructions for prayer that must be obeyed (John 4:24; 16:23-29; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:17, etc.), and there are crucial distinctions between the Members of the Godhead that must be recognized and respected. Many of these distinctions are directly related to the roles of the Godhead in prayer. For example, Christ intercedes for Christians (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25), but the Father does not. Christ is the Mediator between God and men (1 Tim. 2:5-6; John 14:6), but the Father is not, and the Spirit is not. The Holy Spirit was said to be an Intercessor (Rom. 8:26, 27), but the Father is not. As stated, these distinctions are directly related to prayer, and those who teach that Christians may pray to Jesus and the Holy Spirit seem to be overlooking or misunderstanding this vital information! Knowing that the Scriptures clearly teach Christians to pray to the Father, and that the Members of the Godhead have different roles in prayer, should they All be treated the same when it comes to prayer?

## Dishonoring Deity

Although those who teach that Christians should only pray to the Father are at least implicitly accused of dishonoring Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the truth is that to honor Deity is to obey Deity (1 Sam. 15:22, 23). All Christians need to realize that when a Christian addresses his prayer to the Father in the name of Jesus, no Person of the Godhead is excluded; both the Holy Spirit and Jesus are actively fulfilling their roles in that prayer. The Christian should not presume to address Jesus or the Spirit directly to prompt them to be active during his prayer to the Father. If such were necessary, Christians would be required to address all three Persons in every single prayer! Obviously, this is not how the Scriptures teach men to pray. Christians should not assume that praying only to the Father dishonors Jesus or the Holy Spirit, because they All have their own active, individual roles when it comes to prayer.

Regarding dishonoring the Holy Spirit, if one does not focus on the Holy Spirit while He is partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, is he casting doubt upon the Holy Spirit's

deity? Is he somehow dishonoring the Holy Spirit? No, he is simply obeying what he has been taught to do in worship. If the Spirit has revealed that Christians should not focus on Him during the Lord's Supper, they should not focus on Him. That is not questioning His deity; that is respecting His deity and His divine commands! The same principles apply with prayer. If the Holy Spirit or Jesus is not directly addressed in prayer, that has absolutely nothing to do with casting doubt upon the deity of either of them. That is called obedience. It should go without saying that worship must be according to God's instructions (Jer. 10:23; Prov. 16:25; John 4:24; Col. 2:23, 3:17). Failure to do what has been instructed in prayer or any other act of worship, exactly the way it has been instructed, is a failure to honor and obey God. Christians are to direct their prayers to the Father, in the name of Jesus, according to the instructions of the Spirit. It cannot be wrong to pray this way, and it cannot be wrong to teach men to pray this way. Praying this way does not dishonor Christ or the Holy Spirit, but rather shows true respect for them and the Father.

## Inspired Instructions

Regarding what the Scriptures teach about prayer, will the advocate of praying to the Holy Spirit please explain the following? Explain why the Scriptures repeatedly contain clear, comprehensive words like "*always*" and "*for all things*" regarding praying to the Father (Eph. 5:20; cf. John 16:23-29; Rom. 1:8-10; 1 Cor. 1:4; Phil. 1:3-4; 4:6; 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:3, 11; Phm. 4; Rev. 8:3, 4). Explain what words could have been used to communicate more clearly that men are to pray always to the Father than the following: "*always*," "*for all things*," "*in every thing*," "*the prayers of all saints*," and "*nothing*" (see references above). Explain why Paul mentioned all three Persons of the Godhead in Romans 15:30, yet he said that both he and the Romans prayed "*to God*." Explain why Paul mentioned all three Members of the Godhead in Ephesians 3:14-16, but said, "*I bow my knees unto the Father*" (see all Three mentioned in Ephesians 1:13-17; 5:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5; and 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14 also, with prayers only to the Father). Explain why John mentioned all three Persons in 1 John 3:21-24, while teaching that Christians pray to the Father. Explain why we have no record of Jesus praying to the Holy Spirit. Explain why Jesus never taught His disciples to pray to the Holy Spirit, but to the Father. Explain why there is no record of anyone in the Scriptures addressing the Holy Spirit in prayer. Explain how Christians can know how to pray to the Spirit. For example, should the Spirit be approached in the name of Christ? Is Christ the Mediator between "the Holy Spirit and men"? (cf. 1 Tim. 2:5; John 14:6). How can men know how or when to pray to the Spirit when there are no Scriptural examples or instructions to do so? Why should one believe, practice, or teach something like this, which has no Scriptural authority? (Isa. 8:20; Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 1:13; 3:16, 17; 1 Pet. 4:11).

## Conclusion

There are now over seven billion people in the world, and all Christians need to be united in love and in the Truth to make a proper impact in this world for the cause of Christ (John 13:34, 35; 17:17-23). The only way this worldwide brotherhood can "keep the unity of the Spirit" and "speak the same thing" regarding prayer is to pray "*always*" to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:10; 14:33; 2 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 4:3; 5:20; Phil. 3:16). Instead of presuming to speak to the Spirit in prayer, may all men listen to Him and obey the divine instructions He has revealed for prayer, because "*to obey is better than sacrifice*" (1 Sam. 15:22, 23).