

## 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

- ◆ Ken Blackford—health issues
- ◆ Belinda Crawford and family
- ◆ Eugene Crowe (Martha Wynn's grandfather)—health problems
- ◆ Whitney Derrick—heart issues
- ◆ Kristin Erickson—better; therapy
- ◆ Amelia Hogan (Wynns' niece)—cystic fibrosis; respiratory infection
- ◆ Wanda Hunter—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Brenda Mateer—surgery recovery
- ◆ Thad McCall—cancer
- ◆ Phillip Vanwinkle—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Chris Wynn's father and mother—health problems

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, our enemies, the church at Baker and worldwide.

## Events



**July 7**  
*Fellowship Meal after AM Worship*

**July 14**  
*Men's Meeting @ 3:30*

**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).

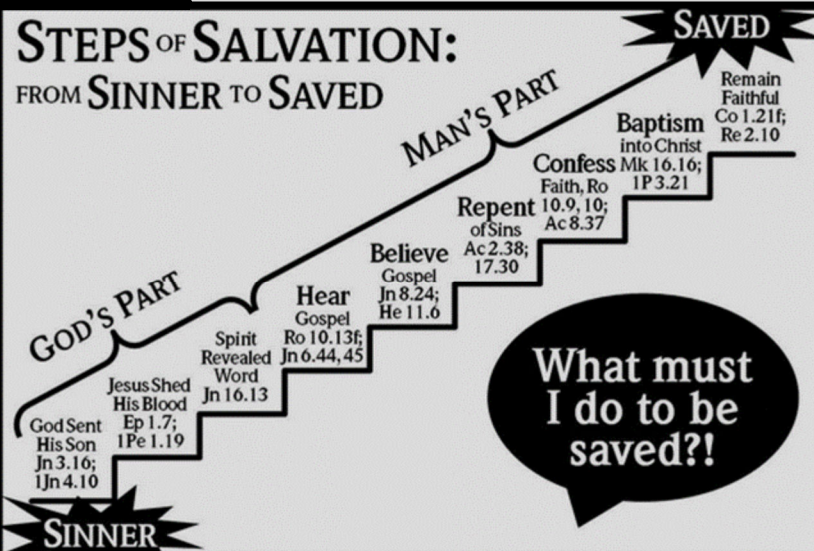
## Privileged to Serve



**Announcements**—Leo Derrick  
**Song Leading**—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

## 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

July 7, 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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## The Ignored Commandment

Jason Patrick Hilburn

Having come out of denominationalism in my early twenties, I thought I had entered the one body of the faithful—those who would do their best to follow God's commands, no matter the cost. In a sense I was correct, but was I too naïve with such an idealistic view? The Lord's church is a perfect body comprised of people who are fallible—people who are made perfect by the blood of Christ upon repentance and obedience (1 John 1:6-10), but could it be that many churches of Christ are refusing to obey a very specific command from God?

Allow me to explain. When I grew in knowledge after conversion, I realized that God has clearly and repeatedly commanded withdrawal of fellowship from brothers or sisters who refuse to repent (Matthew 18:14-20; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15, etc.). I began to wonder, "Why have I never heard of a congregation doing this? Isn't this supposed to be the true body of Christ?"

I decided to do some research, and I began calling many churches of Christ in various areas, asking them if the congregation there had ever withdrawn fellowship from anyone. I found many who had. Although nobody rejoices about the need for withdrawal, it was comforting to know that many congregations were holding fast to God's commands. I was also happy to hear that many had been restored after withdrawal, like the fornicator at Corinth (2 Corinthians 2:1-10).

It was withdrawal that stimulated the fornicator at Corinth

to repent, but before that happened, the congregation had to repent of not administering “*punishment*” (1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:6). After Paul wrote First Corinthians, the church repented, as Paul explained:

*For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season. Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be **clear in this matter** [There was one particular matter in mind here—withdrawing from the fornicator; see 2 Corinthians 2:1-10, JPH]. **Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong** [the fornicator, JPH], **nor for his cause that suffered wrong** [the fornicator’s father, whose wife was involved, see 1 Corinthians 5:1, JPH], **but that our care for you** [More than anything else, there was concern about the church needing to repent for not dealing with this!, JPH] **in the sight of God might appear unto you** (2 Corinthians 7:8-12; cf. 2:1-10).*

Many preachers have applied Second Corinthians 7:10 to alien sinners, and understandably so, but the words originally applied to the church at Corinth. Because of the church’s penitence and withdrawal, Paul went on to write these words: “*Titus...remembereth the obedience of you all...I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things*” (2 Corinthians 7:15-16).

How many congregations of the Lord’s church need to repent of the same sin as Corinth? How many have gloried in their “love and tolerance” like Corinth, instead of removing the leaven of sin? (1 Corinthians 5:2-8). How many have put family before God, having refused to withdraw because of family relationships or other excuses? (Matthew 10:34-39; Luke 14:25-35; cf. Deuteronomy 13:6-11; 21:18-21).

Years ago Ed Smithson published a book about withdrawing fellowship called *The Forgotten Commandment*. Perhaps it would be better described as the *ignored* commandment, because surely it has not been forgotten. Smithson’s book was published in 1965. Has the Lord’s church improved regarding the practice of withdrawal since then? Surely this is still “the elephant in the room” of the brotherhood which needs to be addressed in so many places. As one brother said, “The issue is not a lack of need, but a lack of heed!”

It has already been stated that the Lord’s church is a perfect body, cleansed by Christ’s blood upon repentance and obedience (1 John 1:6-10), but will the blood still cleanse those who refuse to obey? If we say we are faithful when we refuse to obey, John said we are liars (1 John 2:4). How then can we tell those in denominations that they should be converted and become active members of a local church of Christ, if that congregation refuses to obey God? (Romans 16:16).

Preachers and elders should make sure this subject is being taught, so congregations will have a proper mindset about it and be willing to do what must be done. There is nothing hateful about it. It is an act of love to restore the lost to salvation. When a child of God refuses to repent, the purpose of withdrawal is manifold:

1. To keep the congregation faithful by obeying God’s command to withdraw (Matthew 18:14-20; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 7:8-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15, etc.)
2. To save the sinner’s soul (Matthew 18:14-17; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Corinthians 2:1-10; James 5:19, 20)
3. To keep the leaven of sin from spreading further in the congregation (1 Corinthians 5:6-8; 15:33)
4. To cause other children of God to fear the same punishment and be faithful (Acts 5:1-5; cf. Deuteronomy 13:11; 21:21)
5. To prevent those outside the church from talking negatively about God, the church, or His Word (2 Samuel 1:20; 12:14; Romans 2:21-24; 1 Timothy 5:14; 6:1; Titus 2:5)
6. To set a good example that will hopefully encourage other congregations to do it (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:15-17; Hebrews 6:9-12)

Regarding that last point, the last two congregations where this writer has preached have withdrawn fellowship from several people. This is not shared to boast or rejoice, but to show that it can be done and encourage others to do so. For those who have questions, first study what God’s Word says about this. You may want to consult sound books or sound brothers who have some experience doing this. Much of the process is in the realm of expediency, but excuses like, “*We did not know how to do it*” or “*We did not know we were supposed to do it*” will surely hold no weight on the Day of Judgment.

If we have failed to obey this command in the past, let us be like the Israelites of Nehemiah’s day who cried out in sorrow when they realized they had failed to do God’s will, but rejoiced when they understood what needed to be done and did it! (Nehemiah 8:9, 12-18; cf. 2 Kings 22:8-20; 2 Corinthians 2, 7).