

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek Rehabilitation Center
- ♦ Jennifer Derrick—good scans
- ♦ Eloise Hoffman—lung cancer
- ♦ Florene Howze—health problems
- ♦ Finn Lawson—large kidneys, fluid build-up; growing fast, early arrival
- ♦ Hannah Lawson—expecting
- ♦ Brenda Ray—problems with eye

Others in Need

- ♦ James Berry—hospice care
- ♦ Belinda Crawford and family
- ♦ Bob Duke—health problems
- ♦ Freddie English—kidney problems
- ♦ Jessie Garnes' sister—critical
- ♦ Emory Harless—health issues
- ♦ Family of Wanda Hunter
- ♦ Allen Johnson—heart cath. soon
- ♦ Joann Medford—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer

Continued in next column...

- ♦ Merle Moss—heart bypass
- ♦ Family of Shannon Murdorf
- ♦ Roy and Brenda Wooten—health problems
- ♦ Pray also for those who have lost loved ones, public servants, government leaders, military, those traveling, alien sinners, those fallen away, our enemies, the church here 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



November 2

Leonard St. Ladies Day with Debbie Kea

November 3

Fellowship meal after AM worship

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Leo Derrick
Song Leading—David Howze (Sun.)
 Mark Howze (Wed.)

Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Glenn Helpers: Caleb Howze,
 Ethan Howze, Mark Howze

Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Leo Derrick
 Helper: Josh Lawson

Scripture Reading—Wilfred Derrick

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

October 27, 2019

Meeting Times

Sundays:

- 10AM Bible Class
- 11AM Worship
- 5:30PM Pew Packers
- 6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

- 7PM Bible Class

Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4
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 Baker, FL 32531 USA
 850-669-9117

Website:

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Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM

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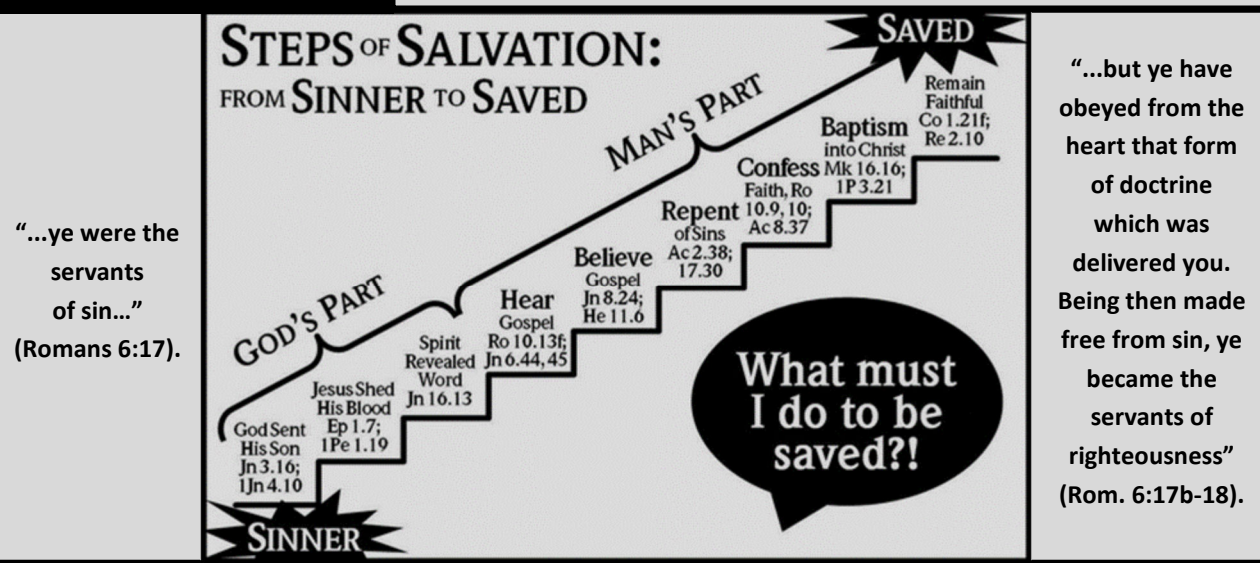
What About Sickness, Death, and Suffering?

Doug Dingley

Sin, sickness, death and suffering were never a part of God's desire for His human creation. In the beginning, He created a beautiful garden that was completely free from all of those horrific evils. Indeed, it was very good (Gen. 1). It was so good, so perfect, and so pristine in fact, that the pure and sinless, eternal God and Creator of the entire universe walked freely therein, along with His beloved creation (Gen. 3:8).

Although God so loved and provided them with every possible blessing they would ever need in order for them to remain eternally joyful, fulfilled, and free from sin, sickness, death, and sorrow, true love is always a choice. Thus God, in His great and infinite wisdom, knew He must allow His beloved and much-blessed creation to make their own choice, as to whether or not they wanted to truly love Him in return. Did they truly love Him enough to trust Him, and hence trust Him enough to obey and remain loyal to Him, or

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).

not? That was the test, the choice, the decision and the question, which He knew He must allow them to fully and freely make and answer for themselves. So, God stood back, allowed the devil to make his play, and Adam and Eve to make their choice (Gen. 3). As we know, it was an epic fail. They chose to love, trust, listen to and obey Satan, instead of their Lord God and Creator. Hence, sin, sickness, death, and suffering entered the world as a result, driving a deep wedge of division between their pure and sinless Creator, and His now unholy and sin-stained creation (Gen. 3:22-24; Isa. 59:1-2).

But even then – despite their lack of love for, trust in, and obedience to their almighty and all-loving God and Creator – He did not stop loving them... not for one moment. Despite the fact that due to their own chosen disobedience they would now have to live in a world far less wonderful and much more painful than He had ever planned, purposed, or wanted for them in the first place, He promised His now-fallen and sin-stained creation that He had a plan in place to give them yet another chance to be with Him forever (Gen. 3:15), if they would simply choose to love, listen to, and trust and obey Him this time.

Each and every day, we are given the same exact choice as Adam and Eve were. God still loves and provides for us more than we can ever imagine (Jn. 3:16; Ro. 8:28-32). And so, the question is not does God love us, but do we love God – according to His definition? Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (Jn. 14:15; see verses 21-24). Do you love Him, enough to listen to and obey, only Him (Matt. 4:10)? Have you obeyed the gospel – God’s commandment to be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Acts 2:38)? Are you daily listening to, learning of, and walking in, obedience to and with the Lord your God? Or, are you choosing to love, trust, listen to and live for someone else, resulting in eternally more death and suffering?

Slightly adapted

Does God Authorize “Children’s Church”?

Is the practice of Children’s Church authorized in scripture? There is not a single example of this in the Word of God. We do see the church coming together in Acts 20, I Corinthians 11, and 14 and worshipping as they are assembled together. However, we do not see any authorized division (as created today in many places) such as the innovation of Children’s Church. Hebrews 10:25 specifically warns against separating from the assembly. Children’s Church pulls not only children, but adults away from the assembly of the saints, the Church of God. How can all we do in word or deed be in the name of Christ (His authority – Colossians 3:17) if the Church is practicing something Christ never authorized? How can we be following such an unauthorized practice in direct violation of Scripture, knowing the practice was invented long after the time of Christ?

Children’s Church has become a popular youth ministry—it’s just not from God. Our children would be greatly aided by learning to sit quietly and in reverence of God with the assembly of saints. They would be deeply benefited by seeing adults, Bibles in hand, turning to read the Word of God with hunger for growth. Our children could grow from observing adults actively taking notes. Our God would be pleased with children sitting next to their parents singing boldly as they praised God and edified the church. Children and adults missing from a commanded assembly of the saints is sinful. Elderships have the authority to shepherd their flocks and provide differing teaching settings for all ages (Acts 20), however, no man has the authority to be in opposition to God’s Word when He has directed a full assembly of worship. Let us be more concerned with proper teaching and examples for our children (Proverbs 22:6), rather than leaving them with the idea that the Church of our Lord is a country club focused on socialization, where they can do things according to their own will and desire.

—Adapted, Author unknown

Editor’s Note: God desires that “*the whole church be come together in one place*” (1 Corinthians 14:23). Paul wrote, “*come together*” (1 Cor. 11:17); “*come together in the church (assembly, JPH)*” (11:18); “*come together...into one place*” (11:20; cf. v33, 34).