

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Florene Howze—health problems
- ◆ Donna Parish—injured ankle
- ◆ Brenda Ray—eye problems
- ◆ Jim Ward—health problems

Others in Need

- ◆ Janet Andrews—cancer
- ◆ Kallie Autmann—severe burns
- ◆ Belinda Crawford—eye issues
- ◆ Emma Derrick—tests
- ◆ Bob Duke—health problems
- ◆ Randy Emerson—broken leg
- ◆ Freddie English—kidney issues
- ◆ Anna Erickson—improving; undergoing tests
- ◆ Friends and family of Eloise Hoffman
- ◆ Jerry Madden—improving
- ◆ Brenda Mateer—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Thad McCall—health problems
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Merle Moss—heart bypass
- ◆ Bobby Williams—brain tumor surgery 2/26
- ◆ Roy Wooten—skin cancer
- ◆ Maureen Zephaniah—cholera
- ◆ Those mourning, public servants, gov. leaders, military, those traveling, alien sinners, those fallen away, our enemies, and the church 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



February 26
4th Wednesday Singing

Privileged to Serve



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

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

Lord's Supper PM
Head: Mark Howze
Helper: Justin Derrick

Scripture Reading—Logan Holt

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

February 16, 2020

Meeting Times

Sundays:

- 10AM Bible Class
- 11AM Worship
- 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

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A Few Words from Jason

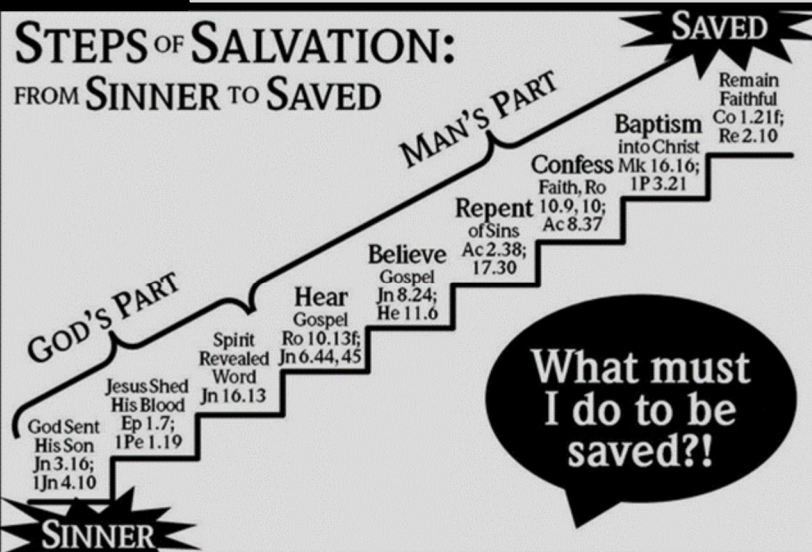
Our hearts are saddened at the passing of our sister in Christ, Eloise Hoffman, but we are so glad that she obeyed the Gospel and was able to have the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. We will miss her until we are reunited through the power of God.

Thanks to all those who prayed for the Bible study with the denominational preachers in India. It went very well. 38 people attended, several of them driving as long as 4 or 5 hours to get there. 19 of those in attendance were denominational preachers. I taught about the one church Jesus built vs. man-made religions/churches and the truth about water baptism. The class lasted about 2 hours, and then I opened it up for questions. They asked about showing support for man-made religions, how to know if your baptism is valid, and identifying the one baptism of Ephesians 4:5. Their questions were answered from the Bible to their satisfaction, and after class a young man who is the son of a Gospel preacher was baptized into Christ! The denominational preachers expressed to brother Kumar (faithful preacher who translated) that they were happy they attended, and want to learn more. Several of them invited him to come preach in their villages to teach them more about these things, and want to attend again when we do this again, Lord willing.

There are also several other Bible studies going on, and not just conducted by me. I appreciate the members at Baker thinking about eternal souls and doing what they can to help others get to Heaven. It seems like it is more unusual for there to be no personal Bible studies going on than it is to have studies in progress. May God be glorified as we do our best for Him and help others get to Heaven, always examining ourselves first.

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
(Romans 6:17).



What must I do to be saved?!

"...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).

You Must Save Yourself

Victor M. Eskew

Yesterday, we noted that it is impossible for anyone to save himself. Salvation and the process of salvation does not originate within man. God saved man. It is He who has revealed how man can be reconciled to Him.

But, on the day of Pentecost, Peter spoke these words to his Jewish audience: "Save yourselves from this untoward generation" (Acts 2:40). Thus, we can save ourselves. Yes, but what did Peter mean by this?

We save ourselves by choosing to do what God has authorized us to do to be saved.

The Jews had already asked what they needed to do to be saved (Acts 2:37).

Peter had told them to "repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).

With many other words he testified to and exhorted the crowd (Acts 2:40).

Now, it was time for them to make a decision. They could obey and save themselves. Or, they could refuse to obey and continue in a lost condition.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). NOTE: They did what Peter had told them to do. In so doing, they saved themselves.

Man plays a part in his salvation. God will not force anyone to be saved. He will reveal the story of love. He will exhort. He will plead. He will invite. But, He will not force anyone to accept the salvation He offers. Man must decide that he wants to be saved on God's terms. When he does, he saves himself.

Dear reader, there are not many ways to be saved. That is a doctrine that originated from the depths of Satan's abode. It has deceived millions and millions of people. There is only one way to be saved, GOD'S WAY. When you submit to God's plan you save yourself.

Will you save yourself? Or, will you continue to be lost? Please, make the wise choice.

You Don't Have to Go to Heaven!

No one can make you go to heaven. You won't be dragged into heaven kicking and screaming. No matter how hard people try to get you to go, God won't let it happen if you don't want it to. Many of you would rather sleep an extra hour or two on Sunday morning than worship God. You're an adult. No one can make you acknowledge God's existence against your will. So, if you'd rather not get involved in spiritual matters—if you'd rather not worship your Creator—God won't make you. If you'd rather ignore the sacrifice that Jesus made for you when he died for your sins, you can. No one is stopping you.

If you're one of those who likes to drink alcohol or have sexual relations outside of marriage, God isn't going to make you stop. He'll let you behave the way you want to while you're alive. Maybe you had to live by your parents' strict rules when you were younger, but not now. No! No one can make you stop living a sinful life.

That's the thing about serving God—it's completely up to us. It's a choice we're allowed to make. We don't have to do it. God doesn't force anyone to serve Him. In fact, God doesn't force anyone to do anything. He gave humans free will. He allows us to choose what to do with our lives. So, if you like cussing, telling dirty jokes, and ripping out vulgar words, God won't stop you from doing it, even though He hates filthy speech.

Your mother may have tried to teach you the Bible when you were young, but you don't have to listen to her anymore. Maybe a preacher has talked to you about your soul, but now that you're grown, you can ignore him. Besides, you probably think it's none of his business what you do with your life. Maybe your spouse has begged you to attend Bible study and worship or give up sinful activities. But hey, you're your own person now. No one can tell you what to do.

Now, I know what you may be thinking. You think, "Well, maybe I do some of those things, but I'll still make it to heaven." First of all, if you don't want to worship God, if you don't care much for Bible study, and if you like dabbling in sin, why would you want to go to heaven? Heaven is a spiritual place with spiritual activities, and there certainly won't be any drinking, womanizing, and carousing in heaven. No filthy language will be allowed. That doesn't sound like your kind of place.

And second, you can't have your cake and eat it too. God lets you choose to live the way you want in this life, and He lets you choose to spend eternity in hell. How you live while you are alive determines your soul's destiny. God demands TOTAL DEVOTION to Him in this life if we want to spend the next life with Him. In Luke 9:23, Jesus says that anyone who follows Him must deny himself every day. That means we have to suppress fleshly desires that keep us from doing what He says. It means we have to follow Him completely—not when it's convenient or when we feel like it. It means we can't pick and choose which parts of His word to obey. It means total devotion.

In Luke 9:24, Jesus sums it up. He says that if we follow our own desires, we'll lose our soul. But if we live completely for Him in this life, we'll gain eternal life. The choice is up to you. It's up to each of us. Jesus paid the price. The way of salvation has been revealed. Now we have to decide whether we'll live for Him in this life, or whether we'll live for ourselves. No one can make you serve God, and no one can make you go to heaven. But on Judgment Day, will those who tried to get you to live right enter into eternal rest and joy while you descend into everlasting torment and sorrow? Don't let that happen. Choose to serve God now!

By Nathan Brewer, slightly adapted