

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Jennifer Derrick—improving after surgery and on-going fever
- ♦ Florene Howze—health problems
- ♦ Hannah Lawson—undergoing tests
- ♦ Brenda Ray—eye problems
- ♦ Jim Ward—much better lately

Others in Need

- ♦ Janet Andrews—cancer
- ♦ Kallie Autmann—severe burns
- ♦ Belinda Crawford—eye issues
- ♦ Bob Duke—health problems
- ♦ Randy Emerson—broken leg
- ♦ Brenda Mateer—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Bobby Williams—brain tumor surgery recovery
- ♦ Roy Wooten—skin cancer

Continued in next column...

- ♦ Please pray for the world regarding the coronavirus, especially hoping that people will seek God.
- ♦ Those mourning, public servants, gov. leaders, military, those traveling, alien sinners, those fallen away, our enemies, and the church worldwide.

Events



Wednesday night Bible classes are temporarily cancelled, but we should all be studying regularly outside the assembly.

May 3-8

Our Gospel Meeting with Joel Wheeler preaching

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—Glenn Howze
Song Leading—David Howze (Sun.)
 Mark Howze (Wed.)

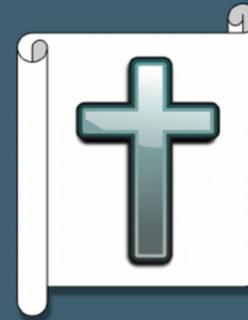
Serving the Lord's Supper

Head: Mark Howze
 Justin Derrick, Wilfred Derrick, Caleb Howze

Lord's Supper PM

Head: Leo Derrick
 Helper: Ethan Howze

Scripture Reading—Braden Hilburn



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

March 29, 2020

Meeting Times

Sundays:

- 10AM Bible Class
- 11AM Worship
- 6PM Worship

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS
 TEMPORARILY CANCELLED

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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The Times of Refreshing and Restitution

(Part 2 of 2)

Jason Patrick Hilburn

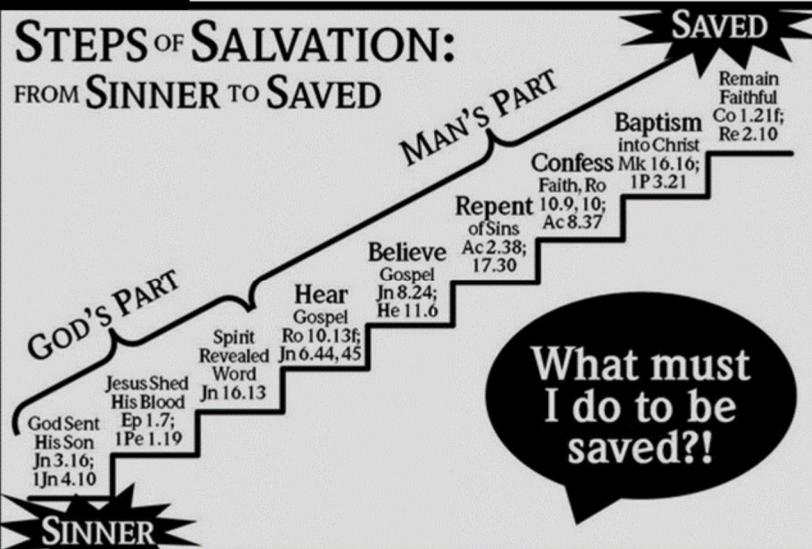
In a sense, things can now go back to the way they were before the fall of man (spiritually), without man and God being divided by sin (Isa. 59:1, 2; Rom. 6:23). However, this process will not be completed until the end of the time of restoration, when all who will be restored have been restored, and man will finally be resurrected to immortality, going to the pure realm of Heaven, "wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:9-13; cf. Rom. 8:18-23; 1 Cor. 15; Rev. 21:27, etc.).

The phrase "restitution of all things" should not make one assume that all will be saved (Matt. 7:13, 14), that Jesus will reign on earth for a thousand years, or that God will restore the earth to some pre-fall state. Christ's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom existing now, and it will be delivered up to God upon Christ's return (Jn. 18:36; 1 Cor. 15:24; Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9). The Christian's "one hope" is reserved in Heaven, not on earth (Eph. 4:4; 1 Pet. 1:3, 4; cf. Matt. 6:19-21; Lk. 12:33; 18:22; Jn. 14:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:1; Col. 1:5; 3:1, 2; 2 Tim. 4:18; Heb. 4:1, 9-11, 14; 6:18-20; 11:14-16; 13:14, etc.).

It should be noted that a restoration can be referred to as an act in progress, or it can refer to the finished act. For example, "This beautiful painting will be touched up to the point of full restoration." In this sentence, the on-going act of restoration was taking place until the point of full restoration. The same could be true of God's language in Acts 3:21. The work is being done now to restore men to God, until the time of restoration is complete and finished. Many commentators understand "until the times of the restitution of all things" as something that is on-going now, to be finished at the return of Christ. A Biblical example of this type of language is in Acts 13:20: "And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet." Samuel was also a judge, so the phrase "until Samuel the prophet" indicates the end of those times, not the beginning. Likewise, the phrase "until the times of restitution of all things" in Acts 3:21 apparently marks the end of the

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).

period of restoration, not the beginning.

There also seems to be a connection between Acts 3 and 1 Corinthians 15 regarding the return of Christ, where Paul speaks of subduing all things to Christ. Those who are the enemies of Christ now are being subdued, converted into the followers of Christ (cf. Acts 3:19-21; Eph. 2:12; James 4:4). *“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life”* (Rom. 5:10). Compare *“the restoration of all things”* in Acts 3 to what Paul said here about *“subduing all things.”*

*But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down **all rule and all authority and power**. For he must reign, till he hath put **all enemies under his feet**. **The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death**. For he hath put **all things** under his feet. But when he saith **all things** are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put **all things** under him. And when **all things shall be subdued unto him**, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put **all things** under him, that God may be all in all* (1 Cor. 15:23-28).

Could the *“restoration of all things”* in Acts 3:21 be related to the subduing of all things to Jesus Christ, including converting sinners to Christ? Is it not also true that those who will not be subdued to Christ are His enemies, and they will be destroyed if they refuse to be subdued? That is what is described in Acts 3:23: *“destroyed from among the people”* (cf. Mt. 12:30; 1 Thess. 5:1-3; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). Paul said the culmination of subduing all things/enemies will be when death itself has been destroyed, upon the return of Christ and the resurrection of the dead. This harmonizes with Acts 3:20-21, which also refers to the return of Christ.

Regarding subduing all things, similar language is seen in many other passages. Daniel had prophesied of Christ, *“whom the heavens received”* just before He was given a kingdom with authority over *all things*: *“...all people, nations, and languages, should serve him...”* (Dan. 7:13, 14; cf. 7:27; 2:35, 44; Isa. 2; Mic. 4; Mk. 16:15, 16; Acts 1:6-9; 2:1-47; 3:21). Daniel was referring to what Peter called *“these days”* of the church/kingdom and the Great Commission (Acts 3:19-26; Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15, 16; Lk. 24:47). *“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church”* (Eph. 1:22). *“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled”* (Col. 1:20-21). *“Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him”* (Heb. 2:8). As the writer of Hebrews stated, the process has already begun, but will be completed later. This harmonizes with the idea that the restitution of all things is in process now and will be finished upon Christ's return from Heaven (Acts 3:21). *“For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself”* (Php. 3:20-21, ASV 1901).

Whatever this restitution is, the prophets had spoken about it from the beginning of the world (Acts 3:21), and the phrase *“these days”* in 3:24 indicates it was something currently in progress. The prophets had consistently prophesied of the coming Savior who would overcome death and bear the iniquities of men, restoring them to God (Gen. 3:15; 12:3; 22:1-18; 49:10; Psa. 16:10; 22:16-18; 111:9; Isa. 53; 59:1, 2; Jer. 31:31-34; Zech. 13:1; cf. Acts 2:23-31; 4:24; 7:52, etc.). Compare what Zacharias said in Luke 1, which applies to the Christian age, not some future age yet to come:

As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; **The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life** (Lk. 1:70-75).

When defining the restitution of Acts 3:21, note that 3:22-26 does not even hint at the idea of a renovated earth while elaborating on what 3:21 means. It focuses on an example of what one of the prophets (Moses) had said about Christ's first coming and His teachings. The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself, and Acts 3:22-26 illuminates 3:21.

Acts 3:22 begins with *“For,”* because the subsequent verses are elaborating on 3:21. The Gospel of Christ is going to be spread (3:22, 23) until the times of restitution of all things is finished, then those who have rejected the words of Christ will be destroyed (Judgment Day; Jn. 12:48; 1 Thess. 5:1-3; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). Acts 3:22, 23 can be divided into past, present, and future applications, as this table demonstrates:

Past	Present	Future
<i>“A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up”</i> (cf. 3:26 – <i>“God, having raised up his Servant, sent him to bless you”</i>)	<i>“Hear that Prophet”</i> (cf. <i>“these days,”</i> 3:24)	<i>“Every soul which will not hear that Prophet shall be destroyed from the people”</i> (cf. 1 Thess. 5:1-3; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

Acts 3:24 reveals that the context is mainly focusing on the present, not some distant time in the future (*“these days”*). Someone may argue that *“these days”* could refer to allegedly future days Peter has been referencing, but the surrounding context indicates a predominantly *“Christian age”* application (3:21-26). Again, Acts 3:22-26 is a great commentary on 3:19-21 and should be closely considered. The culmination of the restoration/subduing of all things will be when the righteous are resurrected to eternal life to live in holiness with God forever (1 Cor. 15).

Conclusion

After considering the evidence above, the following explanation of Acts 3:19-21 can be given: *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”* (Acts 3:19). This is parallel to Acts 2:38, with the times of refreshing referring to the work of the Holy Ghost. *“And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began”* (Acts 3:20, 21). If you will obey Jesus Christ, He will be sent to be your Savior when He returns upon the completion of penitent sinners being restored to God.

Although this is a difficult passage, it seems most reasonable to believe that the Holy Ghost was teaching through Peter the same general truths He was teaching in Acts 2. One of the promised blessings was only for a limited period of time (e.g., miraculous power from the Holy Ghost to reveal and confirm God's Word; Zech. 13:1-3; Mk. 16:16-20; 1 Cor. 13:8-12; Eph. 4:8-15; Heb. 2:3, 4); however, Christians today can still be refreshed and renewed in the spirit of our minds through the Word of God. Most important of all, if we are converted and faithful, Jesus Christ will be sent to be our Redeemer instead of our Condemner.

<http://www.JasonsBibleBlog.com> and <http://www.TheBibleDomain.com>