

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ 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
- ♦ Patty Ryan (Stanley Ryan's wife)—cancer surgery
- ♦ 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.

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



Sunday morning and Wednesday night Bible classes are temporarily cancelled, but we should all be studying regularly.

May 3-8
Our Gospel Meeting with Joel Wheeler preaching

Privileged to Serve

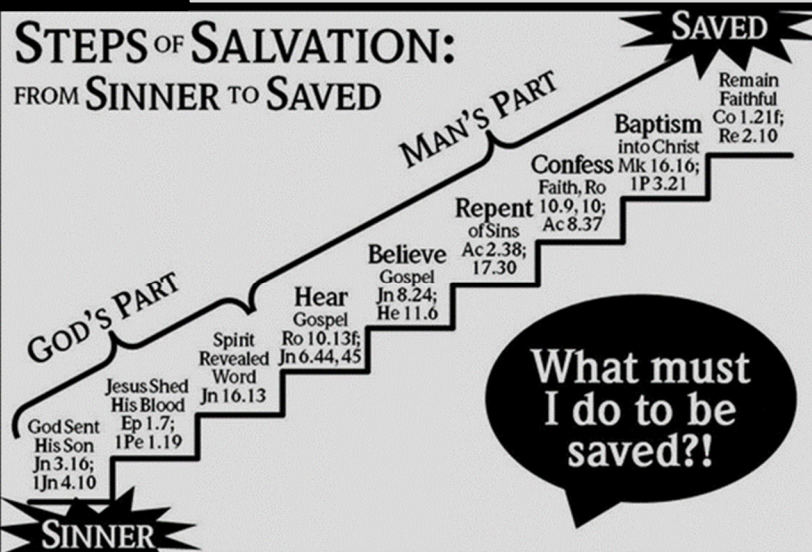


Announcements—Mark Howze
Song Leading—David Howze
Serving the Lord's Supper
Head: Leo Derrick
Helper: Josh Lawson
Lord's Supper PM
Head: Leo Derrick
Helper: Josh Lawson
Scripture Reading—Ethan Howze

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).

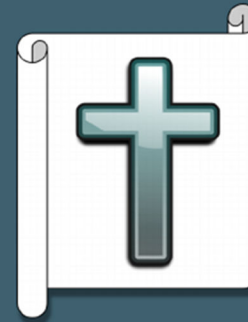
STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...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).



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of
The church of Christ in Baker, FL

April 12, 2020

Meeting Times

Sundays:

11AM Worship
6PM Worship

SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY
BIBLE CLASSES ARE
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

Jason Hilburn's Info:

850-826-8198
jasonhilburn@yahoo.com
TheBibleDomain.com
JasonsBibleBlog.com

How to Fail With Visitors

Mel Futrell

"And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple" (Acts 9:26).

I suspect all of us at one time or another, while traveling for work or on vacation, have visited the Lord's Day or Wednesday night services of God's people at another location. Because of the nature of some brethren's work, or perhaps due to retirement, this occurs quite frequently for some folks. However, how we were received, greeted, treated, and what we heard while there often has a real impact on us for good or bad. If the truth be told, some of these visits many of us make become negative situations. Therefore, the next time we have the opportunity to be in that same area we are reluctant to attend worship services at the same place. And who can blame us?

None of what I have to say here is a direct indictment of any particular congregation. Yet, it is still the case that a number of congregations apparently have failed to realize the great opportunity for good afforded them when they have visitors. Are these brethren "afraid" of visitors? One might draw that conclusion by the way some brethren scatter like kicked up quail when visitors enter the building. What I propose to do in the following lines is list some things/actions that are done that result in failure toward the visitors to our assemblies — whether these visitors are Christians or not.

First, we have in mind **the failure to be on time**. Over the

years it has been my unfortunate experience to attend worship services at places [usually these are vacation type areas] where we waited and waited and waited even to be let into the building. My family and I visited a congregation where we, along with about 35 others, most of whom were visitors also, had this very experience. It was literally time for services to begin, yet no one was present to even unlock the doors. And this is a congregation that throughout much of the year enjoys numerous visitors. I began to wonder who was in charge there. It would seem to me that at bare minimum brethren at any locale should have the physical plant where they regularly assemble open at least fifteen minutes before the posted times for services. And, let me quickly add that this is not necessarily the preacher's job. I'm inclined to believe this might be more in line with work/duties assigned to deacons. Of course the shepherds of the church couldn't go wrong by being the first ones there to greet the flock, either.

Second, we are thinking about **the failure to speak to visitors**. There is hardly anything more irritating to me personally than to be ignored by members of the body of Christ when I and my family have at times gone out of our way to worship with a certain congregation. Solomon said in the long ago, *"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother"* (Prov. 18:24). There is absolutely no excuse for brethren to avoid greeting visitors of all sorts to our assemblies. I'm not naive. I know there will always be those who just won't speak to anyone first, whether they be visitors or regular members. However, such conduct is shameful at best. I've heard brethren with my own ears say, "When I come to services, it isn't to visit, it's to worship God." Give me a break! That statement and attitude is a cop-out. One need only look at Acts 2:42-47 to see that right after the establishment of the church, brethren in Jerusalem were immediately involved in both religious and social fellowship. And, the same is true for the assembly detailed in Acts 20:7-12. Evidently, a good many brethren are afraid to reach out and get to know others — and I have a pretty good idea why. If they do, they may find out there is a legitimate need that could and should be met which may cost them both time and possibly money. New Testament Christians should be the friendliest people on earth, and that is no cliché.

Third, we want to mention **the failure to assist visitors in finding a Bible class**. This may seem petty to some, but those of us with younger children beg to differ. How many times can you recall visiting a congregation where not only were you not greeted, but you were given no aid in locating Bible classes for your family? From personal experience and the testimony of others, I have no doubt this problem occurs weekly all over the brotherhood. Really now, how much trouble would it be to have individuals or families from the local congregation posted at the entrance of the building to provide needed assistance to visitors in getting to Bible classes or the

nursery and restrooms? Sometimes it is the "little" things like this that make all the difference. When Saul left Damascus and arrived in Jerusalem to "join himself to the disciples" (Acts 9:26) at that location, it took the intervention of Barnabas to see that he got squared away. The scenarios don't have to be identical for one to see the valid principle here of service intervention. And, this service is provided by the local members.

Fourth and finally, we're considering **the failure to be prepared to teach and preach**. Tragically many, too many, Bible class teachers and Gospel preachers are simply unprepared to fulfill the requirements of the obligation they have assumed. And, the fault lies with them and those who have assigned them this duty. My father-in-law has often spoken of those who, it seemed, had just scratched out their sermon or class material on a napkin moments before getting up to present it. They were that ill-prepared. And, like him, I and many others have seen this again and again and again. Brethren, teaching and preaching the Gospel is serious business that demands much time, study, and effort. I have a sermon titled "The Teacher's Task" that deals with this very issue. I remind you that James said: *"Be not many of you teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment"* (James 3:1, ASV 1901). James' point of course not being to discourage teachers, but rather to awaken them to the seriousness and responsibility of teaching the word of God; and, that negative consequences follow those who abuse this.

Consider that Ezra of old *"had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments"* (Ezra 7:10). However, the order is important — he "sought" and "did" before he "taught." The Hebrews writer spoke of those who by that time should have been teachers, and thus meat eaters, but were neither (Heb. 5:12-14). Sadly, some today who haven't qualified themselves to teach are teaching! There is enough unpreparedness among the general membership of the local church without those who have assumed the teaching role joining hands with them in this sad state.

It is evident that failure in these areas and others is something to be avoided and that can be corrected. All of us at times are visitors. Knowing how we expect to be treated and what we expect to hear should motivate us to offer that same treatment when the positions are reversed. Oh, what responsibilities we have to both visitors and regular members alike. May we never fail. seektheoldpaths.com

Editor's Note: *Since we are one of the only religious bodies in this area who are still assembling, we may get more visitors than normal. We had more than one visitor last Sunday. Let's follow the Golden Rule toward them as best as we can, while also trying our best not to spread germs. It's a challenging time, but God will be with us if we are with Him.*