

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 soon
- ◆ 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



Sunday morning and 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.)

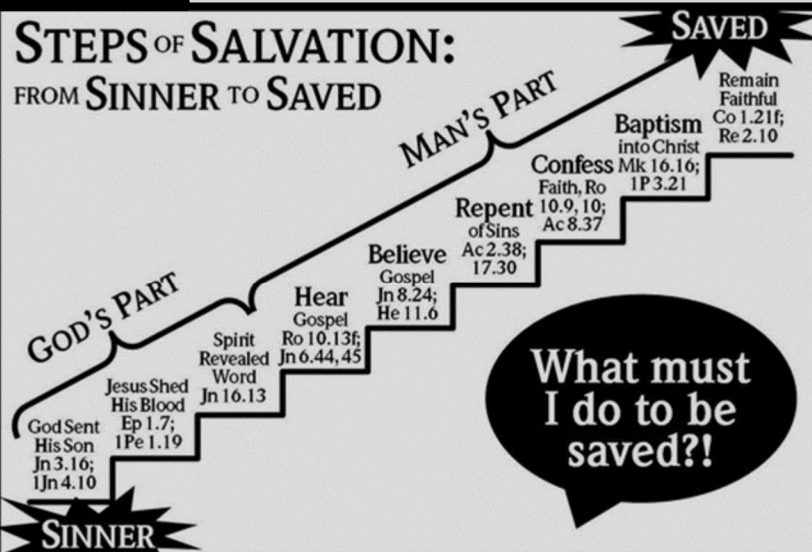
Serving the Lord's Supper
Head: Mark Howze
Helpers: Justin Derrick, Wilfred Derrick, Caleb Howze

Lord's Supper PM
Head: Leo Derrick
Helper: Ethan 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

April 5, 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

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Why Does God Let it Happen?

Bill Jackson

It has long been acknowledged that the problem of suffering is that which atheists and infidels use as their "proof" that God does not exist. Just a few weeks ago, one of our national newscasts had a segment dealing with tragedies and catastrophic illness or accidents as being the reason why some have given up their belief in God. Some on that program, said that dealing with such unpleasantness caused them to cease to believe in God. Their wonder was, "Why did God let this happen?"

The basis of this is highly selfish on man's part, for it says this: "I only believe in God if He performs according to my expectations." In the Old Testament, Naaman was on the verge of rejecting the healing God had for him because of his own expectations as to how God would act (2 Kings 5:11,12). What kind of audacity is this that puts man in the position of being the creature that replies to the Creator, and refuses to believe unless the Creator performs to the whim and fancy of man? Does the creature thus reply to the Creator (Romans 9:20)?

There are two or three considerations in this general area:

(1) Man was made a creature of free will action. This means that man has the freedom to do wrong, if he chooses.

It means, then, that he can be guided by evil motives and even make a move against me or my family; he can bring great hurt and sorrow to me, if he so desires. It is not that God is guiding him; rather he is not letting God guide him and that's why his sinfulness has touched me. The drunken driver runs over and kills a little child. It happens because we have freedom of will.

(2) Men can suffer because they violate the natural laws God has made. They may do this intentionally, or they may do this accidental. In either case, the hurt and sorrow can be brought upon men because of it. A man working 150 feet in the air can make an error of judgment and fall to his death. It was not that God caused it to be, but through accidental circumstance, a natural law of God was breached and sorrow is the result.

(3) Men can suffer because they violate man-made laws, brought into being within the will of God. We think now of civil powers, ordained of God (Romans 13), and in violation of these one might well suffer heavy penalty, even to be put to death. There is hurt to him, and hurt to his family. Why did God let it happen? Again, God did not cause it; man has freedom of will and can use it to his own hurt, and hurt to those around him.

(4) Men can suffer simply due to the imperfection in this world, brought to such a state because of sin. The whole of creation has been given life, and some of that, having good purpose in some cases, can have an evil product when it touches a man. Hence, the matter of disease, infection, illness.

There are those circumstances of an accidental nature that happen when natural laws react in an unusual fashion. That is one price we pay in living in a sinful world, and a world made so by man's misbehavior!

In sum, an imperfect world is a reality.

God uses it as a training ground, suiting man for eternity with Him. Rather than giving up faith in seeing imperfection, we should be thankful that some suffering is in the world. If it were not, then Christ would not have suffered for us, and then where would we be?

Again, we say, man proves his own basic selfishness when he overlooks the world made so by his own sin, overlooks purposes that can be served in man facing suffering in this life, overlooks the price to be paid in having freedom of will, overlooks what is involved in living by God's natural laws- and then declares, "I will not believe in God unless He acts as I want Him to!"

With His Stripes We Are Healed

Eric Farrior

Far too often folks misunderstand biblical subjects. The current crisis only seems to add to the confusion on at least one subject. Let's consider a few things about the blood of Jesus:

#1 - The blood of Jesus was shed *"for the remission of sins"* (Mt. 26:28). That is, Jesus died so that we could be saved SPIRITUALLY from the consequences of our sins (Rom. 5:8-11; Rev. 1:5-6; Eph. 1:7; Jn. 1:29).

#2 - Peter, by inspiration, uses the phrase *"by whose stripes we are healed"* (1 Pet. 2:24) making SPIRITUAL application to the prophecy of Isaiah 53:5, *"with his stripes we are healed"* concerning Jesus and His sacrifice He made for us (2 Tim. 1:9-10). Please pay attention when an inspired man makes application of specific word or phrase. Obvious application is made here to the spiritual condition of man, not his physical condition (Acts 20:28; Rom. 3:24-26; Rom. 6:23).

#3 - Miraculous power was given to certain folks in the first century for two reasons: A) To reveal the gospel to man (1 Cor. 2:9-16; Acts 2; 1 Cor. 14); B) To confirm the message with power (Mk. 16:17-20, Heb. 2:4). There were folks healed of maladies during this time to prove the authenticity of the message/messenger (Jn. 11; Mk. 2; et al).

#4 - Physical blessings are shared among humanity. *"Chance happeneth to them all"* (Ecc. 9:11). God providentially cares for all of humanity (Mt. 5:45), yet there is NO guarantee, promise or indication that God will protect specific people from illnesses, disease, ailments or harm at this present time. If such were a guarantee, that could very well be what "draws" folks to the Lord, rather than what He did for us and the salvation offered to us (Jn. 6:44-45; Jn. 1:29; 1 Cor. 1:23, 2:2).

#5 - In fact, the Christian is promised 2 things: A) Salvation from sin for the faithful (Rom. 2:7; 1 Jn. 2:25); B) Persecution (2 Tim. 3:12).

Is the blood of Jesus sufficient to save us from our sins? Absolutely! (2 Cor. 5:17-21; Col. 1:13-20). Is the blood of Christ going to save/protect us from disease, illnesses or viruses? Absolutely not--Folks, we can and should pray to stay "healthy and strong" and for others to be safe as well, yet God leaves a lot of that up to us. We have to use good sense to keep ourselves out of harm's way if/when possible. God will not miraculously heal you of physical maladies today!