

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—bleed spot has shrunk; more scans around August
- ◆ Florene Howze—health problems
- ◆ Jacob Mashburn—hand injury
- ◆ Jim Ward—health problems

Others in Need

- ◆ Janet Andrews—cancer
- ◆ Belinda Crawford—eye issues
- ◆ Bob Duke—health problems
- ◆ Brenda Mateer—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Thad McCall—health problems
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Patty Ryan (Stanley Ryan's wife)- 2 new lesions; biopsy May 27th
- ◆ Judy Whitehead—heart problems
- ◆ Bobby Williams—brain tumor surgery recovery
- ◆ Brenda Wooten—stage 4 cancer

Continued in next column...

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



October 18-22

Our Gospel Meeting with Joel Wheeler preaching

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Leo Derrick

Song Leading—Sun.—David Howze;
Wed.—Mark Howze

Serving the Lord's Supper

Head: Glenn Howze
Helper: Ethan Howze

Lord's Supper PM

Head: Glenn Howze
Helper: Ethan Howze

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

June 14, 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

Jason Hilburn's Info:

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Specific and Generic Authority

Garland Robinson

Colossians 3:17 reads, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Since we argue that this verse demands Bible authority for all we SAY and DO, a couple of questions have been raised regarding church buildings and preachers.

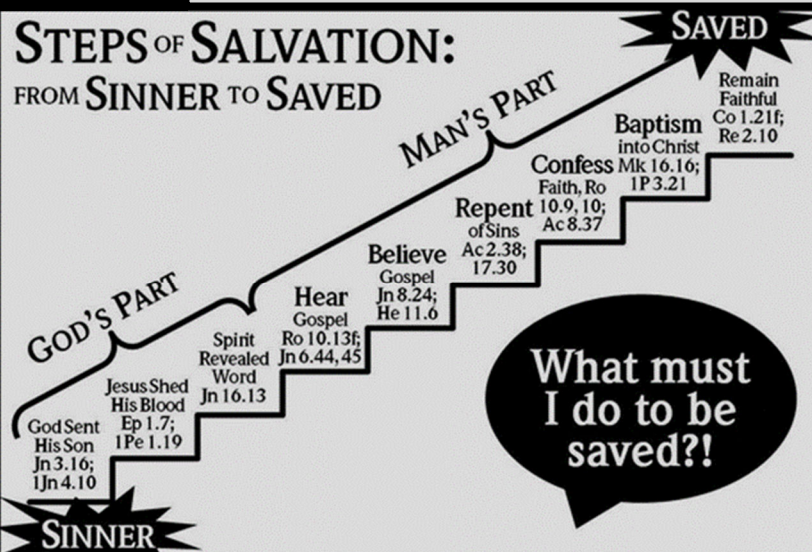
"Where is Bible authority for the church to own property and/or a building in which to meet? I find no specific Bible authority for such."

It is correct to state that we do not have "specific" authority for "church buildings." However, the Bible authorizes in both a "specific" and "generic" way. For example: the Bible "specifically" authorizes preaching to all the world (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). But, it does not "specifically" tell us HOW that is to be done. We therefore call upon "generic" authority to aid us in carrying out the "specific" command to preach to all the world. We have "generic" authority from God to use whatever means we have at our disposal in carrying out the command to preach. Generic authority authorizes PA systems, radio, TV, newspaper, etc. Generic authority authorizes many different means of travel in getting to places in order to preach: walk, horse, train, car, plane, boat, etc. Both electronic devices and motorized vehicles expedite the command to preach to all the world. These means and modes are "expediencies" which help us carry out the "specific" command to preach.

It is also obvious that any "generic" means we use in carrying out a "specific" command must not violate any other principle of Scripture. For example: we are not authorized to rob a bank in order to have the money to buy a ticket to travel. We are not authorized to steal a horse which would provide us a means of transpiration in

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).

going to preach.

God gave Noah a “specific” command to build the ark. He was not specifically told to use a hammer, saw, axe, etc. However, these things were expediences which would help him carry out the “specific” command to build the ark. They were authorized under the heading of “generic” authority.

We have “specific” authority to “sing” in worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). There is also “generic” authority in carrying out the command to sing. This is the area in which we have authority for song books, pitch pipe, a song leader, etc. These things expedite the command to sing; and, they do not violate any other principle of Scripture. Some want to include “mechanical instruments of music” under the heading of “generic” authority as an expedient in carrying out the command to sing. But, instruments of music are not expedients because they violate Scripture. That is, they “add” an additional “kind” of music to that which God authorized. The Bible does not authorize “playing.” It authorizes “singing.” Some argue that pitch pipes or song books stand or fall together -- that they are the same. This is not correct because a pitch pipe or song book adds nothing to singing, but a mechanical instrument of music does. When a song book or pitch pipe is used, there is only singing -- nothing more, nothing less. But, when a mechanical instrument is used, there is more than singing. There is an additional “kind” of music. Therefore, mechanical instruments are additions, not aids or expedients.

Well, what about church buildings? Where does the Bible specifically give authority for the church to own a building? The Bible no where gives “specific” authority for the church to own a building. However, that does not mean the church has no authority to own a building. If it did, then we ought to get rid of our buildings. The church, on the other hand, has “generic” authority to own a building.

The church has “specific” authority to assemble and worship on the first day of the week (Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Acts 20:7). In carrying out the “specific” command to assemble, we can use whatever means at our disposal in obeying that command. This is “generic” authority. Assembling demands a place to assemble. The church, therefore, has “generic” authority to provide a place to assemble. Since the Bible does not “specifically” specify HOW this is to be done, we are left with “generic” authority to use our good judgment in seeing to it that the church has a place to assemble. The church therefore can borrow, rent, own, etc. Neither of these means violates any other principle of Scripture AND, expedites the command to assemble. Therefore, there is Bible authority (generic) for the church to own a building.

NOW, how elaborate and expensive can or should the building be? This must fall under the realm of human judgment since God has not specifically mentioned the details of the place the church meets. In my opinion, many congregations spend far too much money on human comfort and eye appeal. I believe so much of the Lord's money is wasted and could have been (and should have been) used far more wisely in spreading the Gospel than on “creature comforts.” However, this realm is human judgment -- human opinion. Each congregation will have to answer for how they spend the “first day collection.”

“Where is Bible authority for a full-time paid preacher?”

The Bible authorizes us to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). This is done through preachers and teachers, including every Christian.

The Bible authorizes the financial support of preaching and preachers (1 Cor. 1:18-21; Gal. 6:6; 1 Cor. 9:3-14; Phil. 4:14-19). A preacher is not “paid” to do the work of preaching. He is financially “supported” in his work as a preacher. A faithful preacher will preach (using the ability God has given him) whether he is financially supported or not. He will use whatever means and opportunity to sow the seed of the kingdom. However, the Bible “specifically” authorizes his financial support (Gal. 6:6; 1 Cor. 9:3-14).

The Bible does not “specifically” address the subject of HOW LONG a preacher can remain at one particular location before he must move on. It mentions that Paul was in Corinth 18 months (Acts 18:11). He spent two years at Ephesus according to Acts 19:10. Acts 20:31 mentions he spent three years in Ephesus. Acts 14:3 says Paul and Barnabas was a “long time” at Iconium. We know that while many disciples were scattered because of persecution, the apostles remained at Jerusalem (Acts 8:1). The apostles were preachers. We also read of apostles at Jerusalem in Acts 15. From the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) to Acts 15 was more than 10 years.

So, how long can a preacher stay at any one place and preach the Gospel? The Bible does not say. And, neither should we say or make a law God did not make. Just because a preacher lives or stays in one particular city, does not mean that he limits his work with just one group of people. Though he may preach at the same congregation from week to week, he also works in the community and surrounding area as he preaches the Gospel. He makes trips to other areas and preaches also. Paul did this while living in Ephesus (Acts 19:10).

Shall we call a preacher that lives at one certain place a “located preacher” or “professional preacher?” If a preacher preaches at one location for an extended period of time, does that make him a “professional?” Since there is authority for the financial support of those who preach the Gospel, then as long as one is preaching the Gospel, he can be financially supported. A preacher can work to support himself, Paul did (Acts 18:1-3; 20:34; 1 Cor. 4:12). But, he also had the right to not work and the church support him (1 Cor. 9:6-12). Was he a professional preacher? I don't think so. He was simply a preacher and used his ability to preach. In order for him to have more time to preach, churches supported him so he would not have to work (2 Cor. 11:8; Phil. 4:15-16).

It is not right for a preacher to be lazy and just live off the brethren. It is not right for him to think of himself or promote himself as a “professional” and a “notch above” any other Christian. It is not right for him to think that because he has a “degree” or an education in the field of “ministry” (so-called), that he somehow deserves special treatment. This kind of “preacher” is a leech on the church and a hireling. He is worthy of shame, not support. That which enables him to preach is an education in the Bible. And, that education does not have to come from a man-made school of “higher learning.” It comes from many long hours of burning the mid-night oil in hard study. I feel sorry for those who think that unless a preacher has a degree from one of “our” schools that he cannot preach and is not worthy of support. Shame. Shame!