

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Florene Howze—health problems
- ◆ Ann Moss—surgery recovery
- ◆ Brenda Ray—back problems
- ◆ Jim Ward—hip problems

### Others in Need

- ◆ Janet Andrews—chemotherapy
- ◆ Elise Davis—surgery recovery
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—kidney problems
- ◆ Taylor Mashburn—Congratulations on the birth of Emmy-Lou Danielle! 18", 6 lbs., 7.3 ounces, and healthy.
- ◆ Brenda Mateer—cancer
- ◆ Thad McCall—health problems
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Allie O'Rourke—recovering from back surgery for scoliosis Jan. 12
- ◆ Don Nagle—stage 4, not doing well
- ◆ Patty Ryan—melanoma surgery recovery
- ◆ Melvin Sapp—lungs transplant
- ◆ Don Ward—Covid-19

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Brenda Wooten—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Pray for our nation
- ◆ Pray for others who are sick, mourning, public servants, gov. leaders, military, those traveling, those lost in sin, 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



Lord willing...

**January 27th**

4th Wednesday Singing

**Week of May 2nd**

Our Gospel Meeting with Sidney White preaching

**October 3rd-6th**

Leonard St. Gospel Meeting

## Privileged to Serve



**Announcements**—Leo Derrick  
**Song Leading**—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Mark Howze  
**Serving the Lord's Supper**  
 Head: Leo Derrick; Helpers: Justin Derrick, Wilfred Derrick, Ethan Howze  
**Lord's Supper PM**  
 Head: Mark Howze  
 Helper: Johnny Moss  
**Scripture Reading**—Caleb 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** weekly 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

January 24, 2021

## 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  
 WAAZ1047.com livestream

### Jason Hilburn's Info:

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

## Preparing Our Future Elders

Jeremy Morris

Paul began his letter to Titus with two specific instructions for his work with the congregations of Crete. Titus should, "set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city" (Titus 1:5). Before all other words of admonition and edification, Paul reminded Titus that the individual flocks of the Lord's heritage must have their needs met and qualified men placed over them as shepherds and overseers.

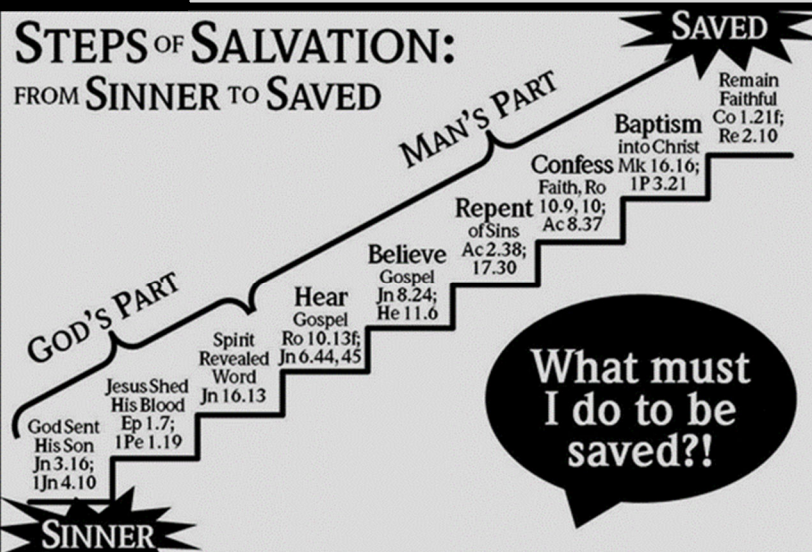
Today, two millennia removed from Titus, the message from the Holy Spirit has not changed. Congregations throughout the brotherhood need to set themselves in order and appoint elders to oversee the church. Because the former depends solely on the uniqueness of each congregation, only a case-by-case discussion could determine what each congregation lacks. Yet, even a cursory survey of the church today clearly reveals an area of want — scripturally qualified elders.

Unlike many of our other needs, if a congregation lacks elders, filling this void cannot occur overnight. Like a strong oak tree, men require time and experience before they can grasp the shepherd's staff and feed the flock of God which is among them. Because the Lord, through his wisdom, saw it proper for congregations to possess a plurality of elders, those congregations lacking elders must patiently wait for two or more men to rise up to the work of an elder. A lack of such patience has led to many unwise and hasty appointments of men unprepared or unqualified for such a task.

## 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 process of preparing our future elders starts neither with the middle-aged nor those early in their marriage. We need to start grooming our young men if our drought of elders will end. Our young men must constantly hear the importance of doctrinal purity, seeking the old paths, and spreading the Gospel. At the same time, we ought to also encourage these same men to be like Ezra because he, “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).

Some young men, through various means, will rise like cream to the top and naturally assume roles of leadership. Like Timothy, whom Paul found at Lystra well reported of the brethren and obviously ready for spiritual work, these young men demand our attention. Elders and evangelists of their home congregations ought to take hold of these brethren and direct them as their lives progress — directing them towards the path of elders. Perhaps we too hastily encourage men to “leave the nest” and become evangelists when we see them increase in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. The church needs elders just as badly as it needs evangelists.

Local congregations must diligently prod the growing saints to prepare for future eldership roles. We must instill in our young men a sense of duty to meet the needs of the church, if capable. Looking to Isaiah, we see the spirit of duty exemplified. When the Lord asks, “Whom shall I send,” Isaiah stepped forward and answered, “Here am I, send me” (Isaiah 6:8). Moses, Jeremiah, Jonah and Amos, all saw themselves unfit to serve the Lord; yet, God encouraged and groomed these men into leaders so they could fulfill his purposes. A young man must understand the sense of duty to serve God as an elder or a deacon or an evangelist trumps personal inhibitions.

In either circumstance, it behooves the local congregation to seek and prepare young men to fill in the future leadership needs in the kingdom of God.

We ought to remind our young men of the perils of life which may disqualify them as future shepherds. Young men need to realize the folly of “sowing wild oats” can set down the framework for an unqualified life. Instead, the seeds of a saintly character must reach the young man’s heart. Habits in the youth will produce men vigilant, sober, of good behavior, peaceable, patient, and the like. Righting the ship of man comes much easier in the pliable youth than in the firm and stubborn old age.

Certain qualifications might require more emphasis on our part due to the prevalent lack of these qualities among brethren of “appointable age.” The church must not repeat the mistakes of the present and continue in this drought of spiritual leadership.

We must emphasize the importance of a strong, godly marriage. All across the brotherhood our young men have entered into foolish and spiritually disastrous unions.

A poor decision in a wife, or a destructive affair in his youth, may inhibit a man from being an elder if his past includes a shameful divorce.

Like Judah in the days of Jeremiah, covetousness thrives in American society and the youth often heed its deceptive Siren Song. We must teach, and exemplify, the beautiful words of Hebrews 13:5-6. “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” Seeds of covetousness find the soft soil of a young man’s heart and cause him to become the forbidden “lover of money.” A man who never learned to depend on the Lord in temporal affairs can hardly learn to depend on the Lord when overseeing the church.

More subtle, but extremely detrimental to the church, is an inability to teach and exhort. Entire generations of men have gone their entire lives away from teaching and instruction. When congregations look to them to pick up the shepherd’s staff, their shortcomings in being “apt to teach” and “able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” becomes glaringly obvious. God’s presbytery must be not only educated in the Word, but also experienced at instruction.

Being “apt to teach” implies these men have shown themselves already capable teachers. We cannot expect men of “appointable age” to suddenly become teachers of the Word if never allowed or encouraged to do so in their younger years. Paul rebuked the Hebrews for failing to develop themselves as teachers. Unlike the babe who “is unskillful in the word of righteousness,” teachers, in this case elders, are those, “who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:13,14).

Congregations need to consider actively, not passively, encouraging men of all ages to teach. This does not necessarily imply sponsoring their attendance at a preaching school. Individual congregations proved adequate sources of instruction with our first century brethren. Even if these men assume only the office of a deacon, or no office at all in their lives, an educated and experienced brotherhood can only strengthen the Lord’s body.

Our present universal lack of elders cannot continue. A congregation with capable elders not only advances in maturity, but it also places at the door of the sheepfold, men able to ward off wolves and adequately feed the Lord’s heritage entrusted to them. Our hope lies within the hearts of the young men still capable of fashioning godly qualities and avoiding errors which will take them out of future consideration. More importantly, we must fervently pray to the Lord of Hosts for men to rise up and take hold of this most important work.

*—slightly adapted*