

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

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

### Others in Need

- ◆ Janet Andrews—chemotherapy
- ◆ Elise Davis—surgery recovery
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—kidney problems
- ◆ Brenda Mateer—cancer
- ◆ Thad McCall—health problems
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Allie O'Rourke—recovering well from back surgery
- ◆ Don Nagle—stage 4, not doing well
- ◆ Don Ward—Covid-19
- ◆ Brenda Wooten—stage 4 cancer

Continued in next column...

### 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...

### 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

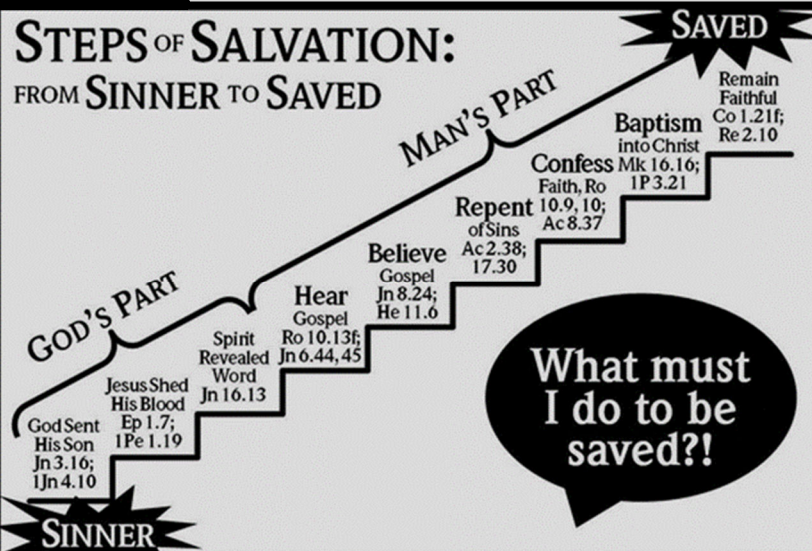
**Lord's Supper PM**  
 Head: Mark Howze  
 Helper: Johnny Moss

**Scripture Reading**—Caleb Howze

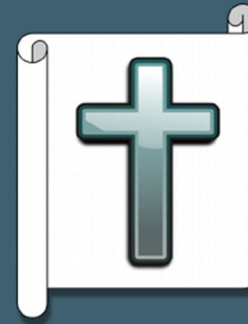
**Faithful Worship** — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** 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).

## 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

January 31, 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:

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## Perfect and Blameless in Every Dispensation (Part 1)

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

In every major dispensation of time, there have been people God described as "perfect" or "blameless." That does not mean they never sinned, but when they sinned, they repented, they did what God commanded for forgiveness, and they renewed their commitment to love God and live for Him. Whenever God gave a law to man, He knew there would be times when man would fail to obey, which is why God always had a system of forgiveness in every dispensation. This allowed man to walk blamelessly before God. However, forgiveness always took place in view of the cross of Christ, whose blood was required to remove sins (Heb. 10:1-22). Knowing that people of all times have been quite able to be faithful, this should motivate us to be faithful also.

### BLAMELESS UNDER THE PATRIARCHAL LAW

Before the Law of Moses, in what we often call the Patriarchal Age, men like Noah, Job, and Abraham were called "perfect." "Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" (Gen. 6:9). Job was "perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1; cf. 1:8; 2:3). God commanded Abraham to be perfect: "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Gen. 17:1). Again, the word "perfect" does not mean that they never made

mistakes or never sinned, but that they were “blameless” (as it is rendered in some translations). The original Hebrew word means “complete” (Strong’s Hebrew Lexicon). They were not completely perfect, as in perpetually infallible, but they were completely faithful, because they did what God told them to do to be forgiven and faithful (Gen. 6:22; 18:19; Heb. 11:7-10).

### **BLAMELESS UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES**

Under the Law of Moses (ca. 1450 B.C. to A.D. 33), God commanded the entire nation of Israel to be perfect: *“Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God”* (Deut. 18:13; cf. 1 Kin. 8:61). God has never given man commands that could not be obeyed (1 John 5:3), so if God commanded them to be perfect, they could. Even though Israelites failed to keep the law sinlessly, that does not mean that they could not once again become “perfect” through repentance and obedience. Though David committed adultery and murder, when he repented, God forgave him, and David’s heart was once again perfect before His God (2 Sam. 12). However, his son Solomon was described in contrast to David after Solomon’s heart departed from the Lord: *“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father”* (1 Kin. 11:4; cf. 9:4; 11:38; 15:3; 2 Kin. 20:3; 2 Chr. 34:2; Ezek. 28:15). It is as true today as it was during the time of David and Solomon: one’s faithfulness is inevitably determined by the amount of love he has in his heart for God (cf. Deut. 6:5; Matt. 6:24; 22:36-38; John 14:15; 1 John 5:3), and anybody under any dispensation could be faithful to God if they so desired.

John’s parents Zacharias and Elisabeth were described as people who were living blamelessly under the Law of Moses: *“And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless”* (Luke 1:6). When they committed sin, they regretted it and did what God commanded under the Law of Moses for them to be forgiven and faithful. Paul was another example of one who was blameless under the Law of Moses: *“Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless”* (Php. 3:5-6).

### **BLAMELESS UNDER THE LAW OF CHRIST**

Paul’s words above imply that he did not place all righteousness in the same category. There was a form of righteousness obtained “in the law” [of Moses], before the cross of Christ, and there is true righteousness only obtained after the cross, as he explained so often in his epistles (Romans, Galatians, etc.). Although people of previous

dispensations could be called righteous, blameless, and perfect (in a sense), they could not truly be justified through those animal sacrifices that foreshadowed the perfect sacrifice of God’s Lamb (John 1:29; 5:39; Acts 13:39; Heb. 10:1-22). Those who lived before the death of Christ (in the Patriarchal and Mosaic Ages) had sins that were forgiven in view of the coming Messiah, whose blood now goes backwards and forwards through time for the faithful of every age (Heb. 9:15; 11:40). It was as if they were putting their sins on a credit card, accumulating debt they could never repay. Thankfully, God sent His Son to pay the price no one else could, to fully remove the debt of sins and reconcile man to God (Rom. 5:8-10; 1 Tim. 2:5, 6; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 John 2:1, 2). Although that is great news, it should grieve every man that the Son of God had to die for him, and it should motivate him to repent (2 Cor. 7:10).

Regarding being considered “perfect,” if anybody of any dispensation could be called perfect, surely it should be faithful Christians, whose sins have been completely washed away by Christ’s blood (Matt. 26:28; Acts 22:16; Heb. 8:12; 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19; Rev. 1:5; 5:9; 7:14). During the time of Jeremiah (ca. 600 B.C.), God had spoken of a new covenant, in which sins would be completely forgiven and remembered no more (Jer. 31:34; cf. Mic. 7:19; Heb. 8:12; 10:3, 14-17). Now that time has come! All men are now under the Law of Christ (1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2; Jam. 1:25), which is the best law man has ever had. The heavy burden of the Law of Moses has been removed, and, more importantly, the unbearable burden of sin has been removed (Isa. 59:1, 2; Matt. 11:28-30; John 8:32; Acts 15:10; Rom. 6:23; 8:1). Because of Christ’s ultimate sacrifice, now men can truly be perfect—completely forgiven and clean in God’s sight. However, that cleansing is always conditioned upon a willingness to repent and walk in the light of God’s Word (Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:6—2:6).

If one is unwilling to repent of even one sin, he cannot be considered perfect in God’s sight. The rich young ruler was a great example of one who kept almost all of God’s commandments, but he lacked one thing to be perfect—he loved his possessions more than God: *“Yet lackest thou one thing...”* (Luke 18:22); *“...If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me”* (Matt. 19:21). Jesus does not require all men to sell their possessions today, but He does require repentance of any sin separating us from God, knowing that the greatest commandment of all is to love God wholeheartedly (Matt. 4:17; 22:36-38; Acts 17:30, 31). Until we do that, we will not be perfect in His sight (cf. Matt. 5:48; Luke 6:40; John 17:23; Rev. 3:2).

*To be continued next week, Lord willing...*

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