

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Wilfred Derrick—4.2cm aneurysm will be monitored
- ◆ Florene Howze—health problems
- ◆ Brenda Ray—health problems
- ◆ Jim Ward—at home, not feeling well lately

### Others in Need

- ◆ Janet Andrews—chemotherapy
- ◆ Debra Aplin—health problems
- ◆ Laura James—Covid-19 and pneumonia
- ◆ Virginia Johnson—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—kidney issues
- ◆ Brenda Mateer—cancer
- ◆ Thad McCall—health problems
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Don Nagle—stage 4, not well
- ◆ Patty Ryan—starting radiation

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.

## Events



Lord willing...

**May 2-6**

*Our Gospel Meeting with Sidney White preaching*

**October 3rd-6th**

*Leonard St. Gospel Meeting*

## 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

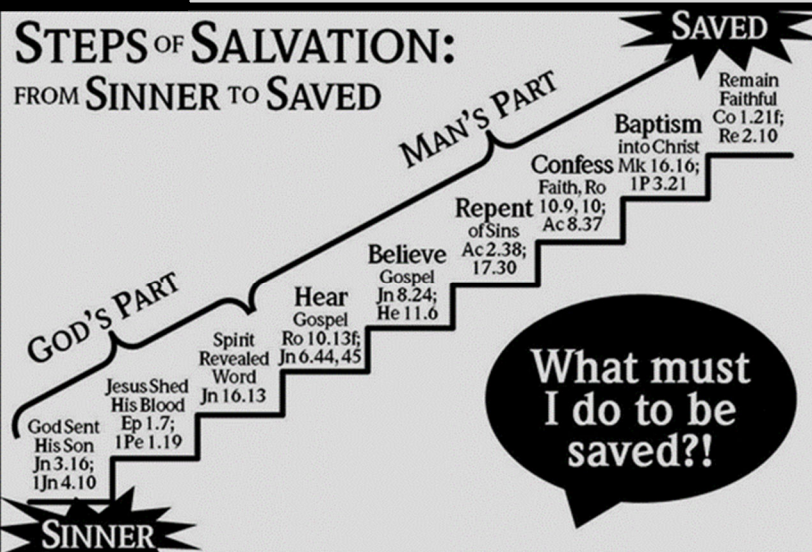


**Announcements**—Glenn Howze  
**Song Leading**—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Caleb Howze  
**Serving the Lord's Supper**  
 Head: Mark Howze; Helpers: Wilfred Derrick, Josh Lawson, Johnny Moss  
**Lord's Supper PM**  
 Head: Glenn Howze  
 Helper: Caleb Howze  
**Scripture Reading**—Ethan Howze

**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** 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

March 21, 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

## Tradition

By Ryan Smithey

There is a word that may bring back fond memories or haunting reminders. You see when I think of traditions I typically think of family traditions that you probably either love or dread — the special things that your family does maybe at holidays or other special times of the year that have been passed down through generations, sometimes without even knowing how they got started.

There are traditions in religion as well. There are certain things we do just because, "that is how they have *always* been done." At least that has become the *custom* of a particular society or congregation. For instance most congregations in our country meet at roughly the same time on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening — there is nothing wrong with meeting at another time on Sunday but that is what we have grown accustomed to. The same idea is seen in a congregation — we get used to doing things a certain way (number of songs, order of worship, date of fellowship meal) and it becomes tradition.

There is nothing wrong with such traditions as long as we remember that is exactly what they are — traditions. But if such things begin to be taught as doctrine, as things that have to be a certain way, or become a source of division (when there is no scriptural reason for doing so), we have a problem. This is a problem that existed in the time of the Pharisees as they would cling to their traditions more so than to the law of God that had been delivered by inspiration. Because of this attitude, Jesus would rebuke them saying, “Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:7-9). They minimized the law of God (making it “of none effect by your tradition” - Matt. 15:6) and instead exalted their own opinions, ideas, and teachings above that of God’s. We must be careful not to make our traditions into law.

But at the same time, we must be careful not to make God’s law into tradition. Paul spoke of God’s instructions as tradition (defined by Thayer as “a giving over which is done by word of mouth or in writing;” i.e. that which is handed down) in writing to the Christians at Thessalonica: “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle” (2 Thess. 2:15). But I want you to notice a major difference here: **Paul did not appeal to human authority for these “traditions.” He was appealing to the authority of God because what they taught as apostles was by inspiration of God** (1 Thess. 2:13; Gal. 1:11-12). Far too often it seems that Christians will refer to what we do in worship to God as our tradition. You will hear or read a statement along these lines, “it has long been our tradition...” or “it has been the tradition of this congregation...” or “the tradition of churches of Christ...” and those statements are followed with what we do in worship to God (whether that be in reference to assembling on the first day of the week, the use

of congregational, a cappella singing instead of instrumental music or choirs, or the role of men in the leadership of the church, or any other such matter).

The message we are sending to the world and to our children with such statements is that these things are just what we have practiced and at least for the time being will continue to practice. Such statements appear to make these matters nothing more than long-held practices that are rooted in the ways and authority of man and therefore could change if we so desired. When such statements are made concerning doctrinal matters, we have missed a great opportunity to teach concerning the authority of God and His Word. You see, we do not worship God in song with our voices because that is what previous generations have done, or as some claim because that is the tradition of the restoration movement; rather we worship God this way because we are following the **divine traditions** of the first century — that is the inspired word of God concerning these matters (Eph. 5:17; Col. 3:16). That is not simply tradition as the world looks at it — that is God’s expressed will that we are commanded to follow, “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” (Colossians 3:17).

If we miss these opportunities to instruct concerning God’s authority and the **reason** why we do the things we do, then do not be surprised when the world thinks we (and more importantly God) have no problem with them worshipping the way they choose. Do not wonder why future generations decide to break with “tradition” (having never been taught) and decide to follow the denominations into worshipping in a manner that appeals to them rather than what God has revealed.

Let us be careful with the words we use and the actions we take, that we neither make commands out of our traditions nor make traditions out of God’s commands, but rather continue to serve God according to His Will (Col. 3:17) in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

—Slightly adapted