

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Wilfred Derrick—aneurysm
- ♦ Florene Howze—health probs
- ♦ Jim Ward—health problems

Others in Need

- ♦ Janet Andrews—chemotherapy
- ♦ Avery Derrick—tests
- ♦ Elise Davis—shoulder surgery
- ♦ Gunner Griffin—improving
- ♦ Joe Holloway—home, wife had may have had a stroke
- ♦ Laura James—Covid, pneum.
- ♦ Virginia Johnson—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Brenda Mateer—cancer
- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Susan Murphy—not doing well
- ♦ Ervin Nelson—Covid19, serious
- ♦ Allie O'Rourke—Covid-19
- ♦ Ronnie Wells—health problems

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



Lord willing...

June 23

4th Wednesday Singing

October 3rd-6th

Leonard St. Gospel Meeting

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Glenn Howze
Song Leading—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Mark Howze

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

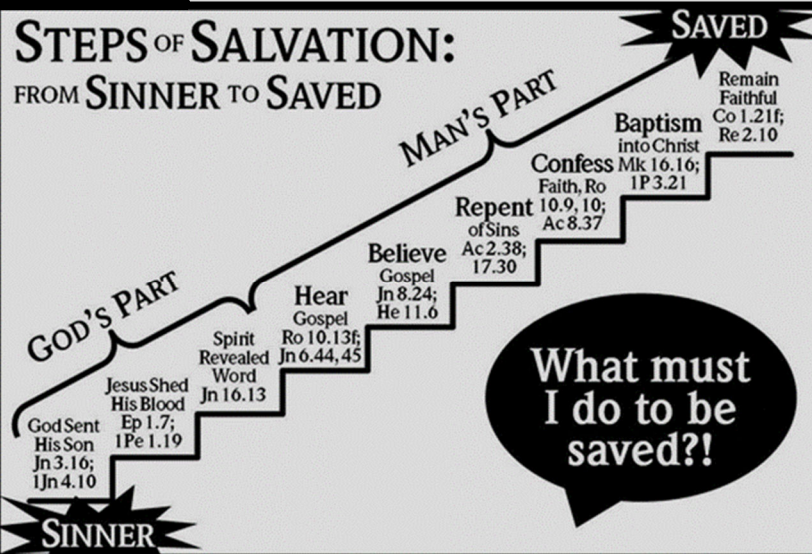
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Leo Derrick
 Helper: Ethan Howze

Scripture Reading—Braden Hilburn

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

June 13, 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

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Do Rules Restrict, or Do They Give Freedom?

By Victor M. Eskew

A rule is a principle or regulation that governs conduct, action, procedure, arrangement, etc. Most individuals believe that rules are restrictive. In other words, they are of the belief that rules remove freedom rather than grant freedom. Many definitely believe this when it comes to the rules that God has set forth in His holy Word.

However, the Bible refers to the New Testament as "the law of liberty" (James 1:25). Isn't that an interesting description of law? It tells us that law provides liberty. Some have some difficulty grasping this concept. Let's look at an example.

When a young person approaches the age of 16, he begins to anticipate driving a car. His parents tell him that before he can get a license, he must learn the "rules" of the road. In fact, the DMV is going to test the child's knowledge of those rules before issuing the license. Too, he will be required to show that he can put those rules into practice in the driving portion of the exam.

Question: Do the rules of the road give a person freedom? or, do the rules of the road restrict freedom?

The rules say that we are to drive on the right side of the road. Freedom lovers would like to drive on either side of the road. The rules tells us to stop at the stop sign. Freedom lovers want to proceed through the intersection.

The rules set a speed limit in the front of schools.
Freedom lovers want to go any speed they desire.
The rules requires a person to be 16 to drive.
Freedom lovers want 8, 9, and 10 year olds to drive.
If the desires of the freedom lovers were followed, what would happen on our roads and highways? They would become scenes of absolute chaos. Traffic accidents would increase drastically. Injuries and fatalities due to accidents would also skyrocket. Insurance companies would go out of business trying to pay for the cars involved in the accidents. The reality is that people would be scared to go out on the roads. There would be no true freedom.
The same scenario applies to the rules of life given by God. They are given to help man. They are given to make life good for man. They are given to protect man. Without them, anything goes. Nothing is off limits. Our streets would be plagued with violence and death. People would live in constant fear. Man's behavior would degenerate into the behavior that resembles that of wild animals.
The home would be destroyed.
Personal property would not belong to anyone.
There would be no authority, that is, no one in charge.
Our schools would cease to exist because no rules apply.
Businesses would be looted.
People would be beaten and killed for no reason.
Might would make right.
Society would live by the rule: survival of the fittest.
Innocence, purity, and honesty would hardly exist.
Hatred would replace love.
The new "Golden" Rule: Do unto others before they do unto you.
People would operate by the principle: What's yours is mine, and I will take it.
Lust and sexual promiscuity would explode in the world.
People would live in constant fear behind strong walls and locked doors.
There would be no safety on the streets.
Nights would be filled with chaos and mayhem.
Dear readers, a world without rules offers no freedom. People become slaves to passions, power, and other people who are stronger than they are.
Give me the "law of liberty." I will take that any day over "liberty" without law.

Is First Century Unity for Our Century?

By Dan Goddard

A study of church unity necessarily involves answering two questions: Was there in the first century "one" visible body or church? If there was "one" visible church in the first century, did God intend for that "one" body to continue as such in following generations?

In this article, I affirm two propositions: first, that in the first century there was one and only one church on earth with God's approval; second, that God wills the existence of only one visible church on earth now.

It will be observed that I do not, in this article, seek to justify the church which I am associated. I am merely seeking to uphold a Bible teaching, whether that teaching is fulfilled in my brethren or not.

ONE CHURCH IN PAUL'S DAY:

Every informed student of the Bible agrees that in the first century, God approved of no differing denominations; that at that time there was only one visible church on earth, made up of identical, visible, non-denominational congregations of people who called themselves just Christians. This is abundantly supported by the following Scriptures: Acts 2:47; 11:26; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; Eph. 4:4-5.

ONENESS WAS TO CONTINUE:

Most denominational theologians agree that what I say in the above division of this article is true. But they deny it should be so today. They say that "today is different." They affirm that no church is perfect; that all denominations are branches of "the great invisible church of the redeemed," etc., etc.

But I affirm that first century oneness was to continue; that a division of believers into sects and denominations is expressly condemned in the New Testament.

1 COR. 1:10-13 FORBIDS DENOMINATIONALISM:

The carnal division described and condemned in 1 Cor. 1:10-13 parallels perfectly, in principle, modern denominationalism and sectism.

EPH. 4:3 DEMANDS ONENESS:

In Eph. 4:3, the Ephesians are urged to "keep the unity of the Spirit." But that unity was composed in part of one visible church on earth. Therefore, primitive Christians were to keep or hold firmly to one visible church on earth. I presume this "keeping" is still to be kept.

DENOMINATIONALISM AND SECTISM IS SINFUL:

In Gal. 5:20, Paul describes heresies as being of the flesh. The term "heresies" is translated from a Greek term which Thayer defines: "dissentions arising from differences of opinions and aims." This definition is a veritable picture of modern denominationalism.

Editor's note: Here is one more verse out of many which condemn divisions and prove that sound doctrine is mandatory: "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 16:17).