

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Wilfred Derrick—aneurysm
- ♦ Florene Howze—surg. recovery
- ♦ Donna Parrish—health problems
- ♦ Brenda Ray—recovering from bite
- ♦ Jim Ward—sees surgeon 12/8

### Others in Need

- ♦ Janet Andrews—chemotherapy
- ♦ Sandra Cook—chemotherapy
- ♦ Rhonda Compton—back pain
- ♦ Elise Davis—shoulder surgery
- ♦ Tony Jones—back injury, better
- ♦ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ♦ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ♦ Paul Mayo—chemotherapy
- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Patty Ryan—cancer spread to liver, pancreas, and bones
- ♦ Family of Darrin Sanders
- ♦ Donato Velasquez—health issues

Continued in next column...

- ♦ Randall Ward—tests
- ♦ Ronnie Wells—health problems
- ♦ Christians overseas struggling
- ♦ Pray also for government leaders, military, those traveling, those lost in sin, and our enemies.

## Events



**No Fellowship meals in December or January**

**December 14**  
*Men's Meeting*

**December 22**  
*4th Wednesday Singing*

**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).

## To Our Visitors

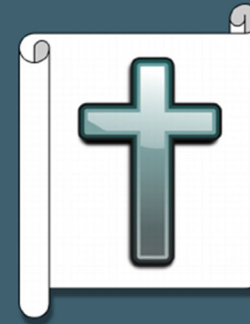


We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

## Privileged to Serve



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



# THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

November 28, 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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## If There Were No God

By Mike Riley

There are many people in our world today who truly and sincerely believe that there is no sovereign God that governs our world and universe. For a few moments, let's explore that possibility, and see what would happen if there were indeed no God.

**1) If there were no God, there would be no final accounting for all that exists** — Mankind has always sought to understand the ultimate origin of the universe. How did the world and all its inhabitants come to be? How do we account for the vast heavenly expanse of stars and planets? Where did man himself originate?

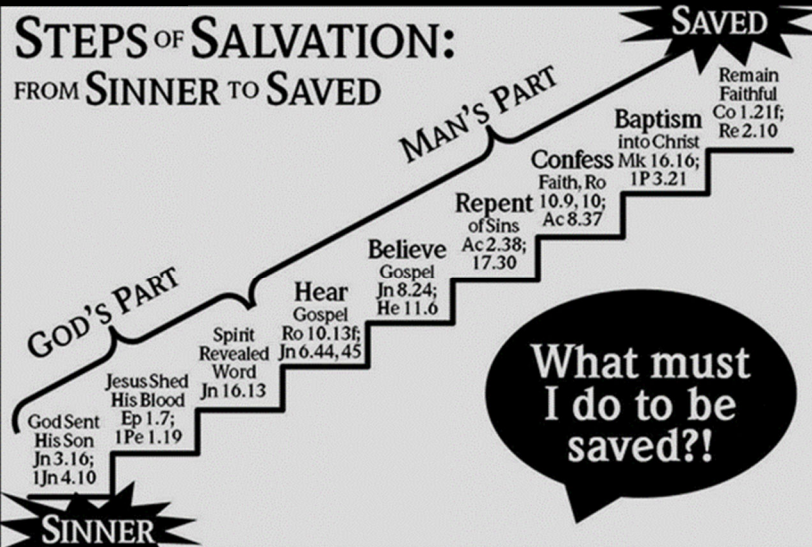
The answers to the above questions would never be known if the idea of a creator God is rejected. There will always be many new "ingenious theories" to explain origins, as there have always been in the past. But, like their predecessors, these "theories" will eventually be rejected as irrational, because true laws of science and rational thought will disprove them as being false. Without God and His word, man would be forever doomed to uncertainty, left to wonder in ignorance about the beginning and end of all created things, including himself.

Yes, the Bible teaches there will be a final accounting (Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; cf. Gal. 6:7; Ephesians 6:8 ; Revelation 22:12).

**2) If there were no God, there would be no moral standards to live by** — We often speak of what is right and what is wrong

## STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."  
(Romans 6:17).



What must I do to be saved?!

"...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).

— what is good and evil. But if God did not exist, these concepts would just be creations of each man's mind (cf. Judges 17:6; Judges 21:25). If all morality were of a subjective nature, any kind of behavior would be justifiable.

In his novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky had one of his characters, Ivan, comment:

“If there is no God, everything is permitted.”

The effects of this belief would be devastating on not only our society, but all societies. Fortunately, there is a standard of morality and moral behavior — of right and wrong — and that standard is found within the pages of Holy Writ — the Bible (Matthew 4:4; cf. Deuteronomy 8:1-3; Psalm 119:11). Also see Isaiah 45:18-19, and note the fact that the Lord “speaks righteousness” and declares things that are “right.”

**3) If there were no God, there would be no life beyond the grave** — We would be just like Rover — dead all over! Our life would then be without purpose or meaning. All happiness would be a fruitless quality. Hopeless despair would be our only reward (1 Corinthians 15:19; Ephesians 2:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:13).

Thankfully, we have been provided abundant evidence, not only through true scientific evidence derived from the physical creation (Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1-6; Psalm 148), but through the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-ASV; cf. Gal. 1:11-12; Ephesians 3:1-3) to believe in the existence of God — the only true and living God (Mark 12:26-27; Luke 20:37-38; cf. Matthew 16:16; John 20:28; Acts 8:37; Acts 9:20).

#### **Conclusion:**

Beloved friends — God is and has always existed (cf. Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 43:13; John 8:58; John 17:5,24; Colossians 1:17; Revelation 1:8), there is no other God (cf. Deuteronomy 4:35; Deuteronomy 32:39; 1 Samuel 2:1-2; Isaiah 44:8; Isaiah 45:5-6,18,20-22), and no declaration from the mind of any mortal man can change that immutable fact (Psalm 119:89).

Because God is, and because He has revealed His will to us as His created beings (Matthew 10:24-27; John 15:14-15; Ephesians 3:1-5), we now know the answer to the questions as to where we came from (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7; Ecclesiastes 7:29), how to live moral and godly lives (Romans 6; Gal. 5:13-26; Ephesians 4:17-32; Ephesians 6:10-18; Philippians 2:12-16; Colossians 3; Colossians 4:1-6; 2 Peter 1:1-11), and where we are going when this earthly life is over (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Matthew 25; Philippians 1:23; 2 Timothy 4:6).

Let's give praise, glory and honor to the only true and living God! (Revelation 5:11-14; Revelation 14:1-7).

## **True Christians Don't Reject Religion**

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

Those who have had bad experiences with “religious people” or a certain church should not use such experiences as an excuse to totally reject religion in general. Some say they reject “organized religion” and do not “attend church” but still follow Christ. Is that possible? The word “religion” is not a bad word, as many people seem to think. James used the word in a positive way (Jam. 1:26, 27). Christ Himself was a religious person who had a “custom” of regularly assembling with others of like faith (Lk. 4:16-19). The apostles and early Christians regularly gathered to encourage one another and to worship (Acts 2:36-47; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:18, 20, 33; 14:23; 16:2), and Christ commands all Christians to faithfully assemble with other Christians for these purposes (Heb. 10:23-31; cf. 1 Cor. 14:37).

Christ shed His blood for His church (Acts 20:28), so to say the church is not important is to say Christ shed His blood in vain. Christ's church was in God's eternal purpose, and faithful membership in it is necessary for salvation (Eph. 3:9-11; 5:23; Rev. 2:8-11). Christ's followers are supposed to love one another enough to die for one another (1 Jn. 3:16), so refusing to assemble with Christ's followers while claiming to follow Christ is hypocritical and contrary to what Christ Himself commanded (Heb. 10:23-31; cf. 1 Cor. 14:37). Those who use this excuse either have not studied God's Word enough to know His will, or they willfully reject what they know Christ commanded (Heb. 10:26).

There can be bad apples in any group of people (like Judas among the apostles), but that does not mean every apple is bad. None of us are beyond the possibility of committing a sin, but that does not mean there are no sincere Christians, or that nobody can be faithful. We simply must repent and do what God commanded us to do to be forgiven and faithful (Acts 2:36-42; 8:12-24; 1 Jn. 1:6—2:6; 5:3). We should therefore love and appreciate others who have repented and are faithful, instead of having a negative attitude toward them. As for those who are not faithful to Christ, we should love them enough to teach them how to be faithful, but we may have to move on if they make it clear they refuse to be faithful (Mt. 7:6; 10:14,15; 28:18-20; Acts 13:44-46; 18:6; 19:8-10). If we refuse to repent and be faithful, we should not call ourselves Christians, followers of Christ (Lk. 9:23; 14:25-35; Rev. 3:1). However, if we are faithful, we will be faithfully assembling with others who are faithful in our area and practice pure and undefiled religion before God (Jam. 1:27).

<http://www.JasonsBibleBlog.com>