

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Larry Derrick—neck surgery recovery
- ◆ Wilfred Derrick—aneurysm
- ◆ Florene Howze—fell recently
- ◆ Jim Ward—Surgery April 8th

### Others in Need

- ◆ Dwayne Cook—cancer surgery
- ◆ Elise Davis—shoulder surgery
- ◆ Tim Dixon's family after his passing
- ◆ Viem Do—surgery recovery
- ◆ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ◆ Carol Kitzan—health problems
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ◆ Paul Mayo—chemotherapy
- ◆ Thad McCall—health problems
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Patty Ryan—better results
- ◆ Donato Velasquez--health issues

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Randall Ward—slow spreading cancer, dr. again in 1 year
- ◆ Ronnie Wells—results 4/7
- ◆ Christians overseas, Ukraine
- ◆ Government leaders, military, 1st responders, travelers, the lost, and our enemies.

## Events



### May 1-5

*Gospel Meeting preached by men of this congregation*

### July 17-20

*Mossy Head Gospel Mtg.*

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

# THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

April 3, 2022

## 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  
 hilburnjasonp@gmail.com  
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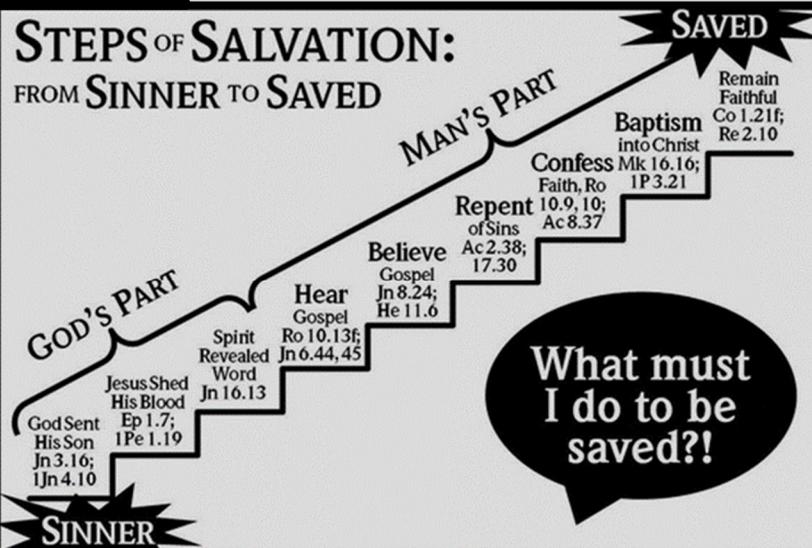
## The Angler Fish

"A family of fish that live in the depths of the sea actually go fishing: pole, dangling bait and all. This is only natural, since they, like people who go fishing, like to eat fish. This group of fish is collectively called the angler fish. The front dorsal spine in the female angler is located on her head. It is much longer than any of the other dorsal fins and has a fleshy bait on the end. When hungry, she sits very still and dangles the bait in front of her mouth. It doesn't take long before something swims up to investigate this bait as its possible lunch. But before it can think about taking a sample, the angler has turned the tables and eaten her own lunch. Of course, this system wouldn't work very well in the pitch darkness one mile below the surface of the ocean without one other special provision. Like many other fish at such depths, the angler is able to generate her own light. In her case, only the bait lights up, so she stays invisible to her victims. The chemical method she uses to create the light is nearly 100 percent efficient! In His imaginative creativity, God was pleased to place creatures a mile below the surface of the sea. Yet, in His mercy He has provided them with everything they need to make their living there."

—From Creation Moments

## 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).

## "If You Need to Come, Do So Now"

Ed Casteel

Once there was a time when all gospel sermons were brought to a close basically the same way. After the lesson was presented the lost and the wayward were invited to obey the gospel as the plan of salvation was well defined and clearly outlined. Such was accomplished as the preacher would give the plan and quote the book, chapter and verse to establish the action. I am afraid in many congregations today, and even in many so called "gospel meetings" today that the simple plan of redemption is never or seldom ever explained to the audience. Many a sermon is being brought to a close and the preacher is heard to say, "if you need to come, do so now." Those in the audience are never told what to do to come to the Lord.

Is extending the invitation by giving the steps of salvation no longer necessary or needful? Do all the lost in our assemblies know God's saving plan to the degree that to outline it at the end of the sermon is only redundant? How can a gospel preacher hold a gospel meeting and never give the gospel plan of salvation?

During the past, when we would outline God's plan of redemption, the church was growing and was numbered among the fastest growing religious bodies in the world. Do you suppose that the powerful preaching of God's Word, followed by the extending of the invitation and telling men and women what they needed to do, had any bearing on this condition? Do you also suppose the weak, watered down, people pleasing, ear tickling, non-committal sermon, without the plan of salvation has anything to do with our lack of growth today? When I hear a preacher end his lesson and say to the audience, "if you have a need, come now," I want to say, "tell them how!" It is clear and evident that not everybody knows how to obey the gospel.

Peter preached a great and powerful sermon on the day of Pentecost. The people were "pricked in their hearts," and before Peter could finish they were asking, "men and brethren, what shall we do" (Acts 2:37)? Peter has already preached the need for faith, "therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). "The expression, 'know assuredly' is the same as calling them to believe the evidence that Peter had given to establish the fact that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah and therefore the Son of God. This was another way of telling them to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ" (H. Leo Boles, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 44).

Today, we need to tell people they need to believe in God (Heb. 11:6), as well as Christ being his only begotten Son (John 3:16). Jesus said, "if ye believe

not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). We need to extend the invitation by pointing men to faith so that our children and visitors can learn its importance, as well as what our faith ought to be in.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). With the sin that fills the hearts and lives of people, they need to be told that if they are going to come to Jesus, repentance is demanded of them by God, for not all the people know that. Repentance requires one leaving the path of sin because he has become truly sorry for his former conduct. Remember, "godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (II Cor. 7:10).

Contrary to the thinking of some, we cannot continue in sin and be saved at the same time. If we just say at the close of our lesson, "if you have a need, come," one living in adultery may come but has not thought of forsaking that adulterous union, while repentance would demand such an action. Another may come who is a homosexual but having no knowledge of his need to repent of his sins before he can obey the gospel. People need to know what repentance demands, and it is the duty of the gospel preacher to be sure those of his audience are well aware of their individual responsibility.

Also, Peter charged his listening audience to be baptized for the remission of sins. If people are not told of their need to be baptized, why would they desire it? The nobleman of Ethiopia must have learned of his need to be baptized from Philip, for he said, "see, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized" (Acts 8:36). It was his desire, but Philip must have taught him the importance and necessity of such an action.

Brethren, is there one good reason why we should not extend the invitation by giving the plan of salvation? Brother James Boyd once said a lady asked him why he always gave the plan of salvation, even on Wednesday night. Such being the case, it sounds like he was doing what was required to remind people of their need and how to fulfill that need of salvation.

Can you think of one good reason why we should not extend the invitation by giving the gospel plan of salvation? I cannot think of a single reason; but I can think of many as to why we should. Our children need to learn God's plan of salvation, and repetition is one of the best ways of teaching. Our visitors, who are not regular attenders of our services, need to learn the gospel plan of salvation. The alien sinner who attends on a regular basis but has never obeyed the Lord needs to be reminded of his need to obey the gospel and he needs to be encouraged to do so.

Let us not allow people to leave our services without the answer to the greatest question in all the world, "what must I do to be saved?" I am afraid many today are leaving gospel meetings and many worship services without this question ever being answered. How tragic.

—Slightly adapted, *Seek the Old Paths*, Nov. 1993