

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Leo Derrick—surgery recovery
- ♦ Wilfred Derrick—aneurysm
- ♦ Florene Howze—Asst. Living
- ♦ Donna Parish—surg. recovery
- ♦ Jim Ward—surgery recovery

Others in Need

- ♦ John Branch—in hospital
- ♦ Elise Davis—shoulder surgery
- ♦ Viem Do—surgery recovery
- ♦ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ♦ Carol Kitzan—health problems
- ♦ Mr. Martin—ICU
- ♦ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ♦ Taylor Mashburn—pregnancy complications
- ♦ Paul Mayo—chemotherapy
- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Peggy Preece—migraines, COPD
- ♦ Peggy Preece's daughter,

Continued in next column...

Angel—blood clot

- ♦ Shane Price—surgery went well
- ♦ Patty Ryan—better results
- ♦ Gene Taylor—cancer
- ♦ Randall Ward—slow cancer
- ♦ Ronnie Wells—radiation was ineffective

Events



June 5-8

Sasser Gospel Meeting

July 17-20

Mossy Head Gospel Mtg.

July 31-Aug. 3

Union Hill Gospel Meeting

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

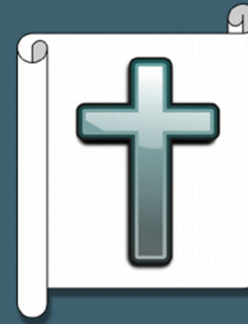


We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Leo Derrick
Song Leading—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Justin Derrick
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Mark Howze; Helpers: Justin Derrick, Josh Lawson, 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

June 5, 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

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Crisis in the Home: Sodomy/Homosexuality

Part 1 of 2 by Ronnie Whittemore

In the political and media environment of our society, the word "crisis" tends to be overused. Nearly every cultural or political event is deemed a crisis. One of the repercussions of overusing a word such as "crisis" is the devaluing of the word or the "real" crisis. A crisis may be defined as "an emotionally significant event or radical change of status in a person's life; the decisive moment; an unstable or crucial time or state of affairs in which a decisive change is impending; a situation that has reached a critical phase" (www.m-w.com). Sometimes the crisis that a person faces is not the "event itself," but one's reaction to the event. For that reason, great faith and understanding in the majesty of God can help Christians to cope with the storms of life which test their faith (Matt. 14:31; James 1:2-4).

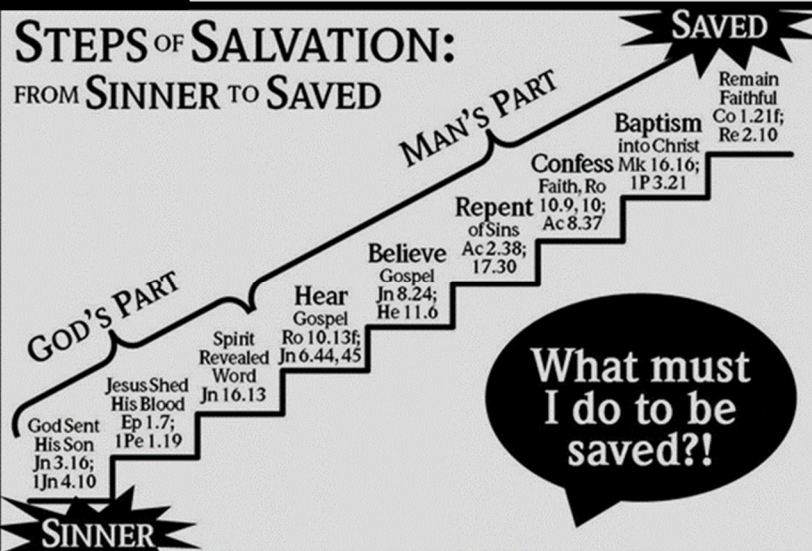
The current political and cultural climate has presented a moral crisis for the world, the church, and the home through the homosexual agenda. Homosexuality is defined as "erotic activity with another of the same sex" (www.m-w.com). For many years, Hollywood, the media and some political figures have been pushing this immoral agenda. Unfortunately, national leaders who resisted this movement have been replaced by sympathetic leaders who have taken steps to undermine the home and demoralize the nation. As a result, sodomy laws are being relaxed while others have been eliminated. Same-sex marriages are being sanctioned in a growing number of places. Society is in an identity crisis concerning our moral code. The home is under attack!

OUR FIRST CHALLENGE IS TO SEE THINGS AS GOD SEES THEM

Speaking for Jehovah God, the prophet Hosea wrote, "For I am

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).

God, and not man" (Hosea 11:9). Isaiah wrote that God's ways and thoughts are higher than man's ways and thoughts (Isa. 55:8-9). Solomon warned, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (Prov. 14:12). Man faces the challenge to see things as God sees them. To do so, one must remove prejudices, emotions, temptations to rationalize and one's own excuses.

God views homosexuality as a sin—deviant behavior, an abomination! "*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination*" (Lev. 18:22). Under the law of Moses, written by the finger of God, "*If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them*" (Lev. 20:13). In Romans 1:26-28, the Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul, condemned homosexuality, "*For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.*" Jude wrote of the ungodly Sodomites, "*Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities*" (Jude 7-8).

Can one not see the politically correct crowd grimacing as these Scriptures are read and proclaimed? Can one hear objections like: "Do not use the word Sodomites. Do not say homosexual—use the word 'gay' or the phrase 'alternate lifestyle'." What a challenge to see things as God sees them!

The home was established by God when He observed His creation and found that it was not good that man should be alone. God made woman a helper, "meet" (suitable) for Adam (Gen. 2:18). This divine arrangement was affirmed by Jesus in Matthew 19:1-9. Paul confirmed that husbands are to love their wives "*as Christ loved the church*" (Eph. 5:25).

Lust and lasciviousness undermine the home. Peter spoke of men and women "*having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children*" (2 Peter 2:14).

The militant and aggressive homosexual movement is attacking our homes. Families are in crisis!

TIMELINE OF LOT'S LIFE IN GENESIS

In order to establish the militant and aggressive behavior of the homosexual movement, let's discuss Lot and his family's experience with the homosexual attacks of his time. An examination of the timeline of Lot's life will reveal how his home was attacked despite his efforts to thwart their ungodly attempts. One of the definitions of crisis is "an unstable or crucial time or state of affairs in which a decisive change is impending; or a situation that has reached a critical phase." Think about the numerous crises that faced Lot

and his family in the following description from the book of Genesis.

Prior to Sodom. Lot leaves Ur of the Chaldees with his uncle Abram (Gen. 12:5). Abram and Lot separate to avoid strife. Lot pitches his tent toward Sodom (13:12-13; 14:1). He is captured by enemies and rescued by Abram (14:12-17).

Intermission. The Lord speaks to Abram and three men (including the Lord) approach him (Gen. 18:1-2). The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah is very grievous (18:20). God hears the cry of the city and investigates the activities of Sodom and Gomorrah (18:21). Their sin has ripened to the point of destruction as in the days of the flood (Gen. 6:5). Abram pleads for Sodom. God agrees to spare the cities if ten righteous souls can be found in that hedonistic place (18:23-33).

Lot's Series of Crises. Two angels (as men) visit Lot in Sodom (Gen. 19:1-3). He extends hospitality to them, but it is rejected. Lot insists they come into his house because the streets of Sodom are not safe (19:2). The Sodomites are aggressive and militant. They come to Lot's door with the desire to "know" these men sexually (Gen. 4:1,17, 25 'knew') (19:5). Lot confronts these homosexuals and refuses to turn the men over to them (19:7). Faced with a crisis, Lot offers his daughters to the aggressors. Did he know the men of the city would refuse them? In a similar incident in Judges 19:22, the women were not refused. A concubine was abused to death. Did the law of hospitality override Lot's fatherhood? Were his daughters considered only possessions? Regardless, what a crisis for righteous Lot (cf. 2 Peter 2:8)! He did not ask for this event. He did not look for it. The homosexuals were militant, aggressive and abusive. But the confrontation continues.

Lot is called a foreigner—a stranger, even though he is a citizen of the community. He is scoffed. "*And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door*" (19:9). Does this sound familiar? You are not one of us! You do not belong here! You do not understand! Who are you to judge us? The men of the city (Sodomites), in turn, threatened Lot and his family. This is an ugly episode of human (sinful) behavior that proponents of homosexuality either ignore and/or deny. The angels pulled Lot back into the house and blinded the Sodomites. They wearied themselves trying to find the door (19:10-11).

Judgment is determined. The investigation of the city ended (Gen. 19:13). It would be utterly destroyed! Lot's family is divided. His sons-in-law would not listen to Lot, so they stayed behind (19:14). Lot lingered, what is a father to do? His family is torn asunder (19:16). The angels led Lot and his family to Zoar and let them go (19:17-23). Lot feared. When the sun came up, God rained down brimstone and fire upon the cities. Sodom and Gomorrah and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and all that grew upon the ground were destroyed (19:24-25). The smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace (19:28). Ignoring the angels' warning, Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a "pillar of salt" (19:26).

A brief intermission. Abram watches from the plains (19:27-29) as God destroyed the cities as He promised to do. Sodom and Gomorrah did not have even ten righteous citizens to save the cities from the wrath of God. *To be continued next week, if the Lord wills...*