

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ David Howze—arthritis, pain
- ◆ Donna Parish—sick lately
- ◆ Jim Ward—improving, moving to another facility in Pensacola

Others in Need

- ◆ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ◆ Katie Gonzalez—6, rare disease
- ◆ Michael Hudson—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ◆ Avis Majors—Covid-19
- ◆ Thad McCall—health problems
- ◆ Richard McCool—heart attack
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Shane Price—cancer
- ◆ Larry Shapley—hospice care
- ◆ Ronnie Wells—health problems
- ◆ Sidney White—high blood press.
- ◆ Christians overseas, Ukraine

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Sound Bible schools, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, the lost, our enemies

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



No fellowship meals in December, January

February 24

Faith and Fellowship

March 6-10

Gospel Mtg. in Silverhill, AL

Privileged to Serve



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

Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Leo Derrick; Helpers: Wilfred Derrick, Caleb Howze, Ethan Howze

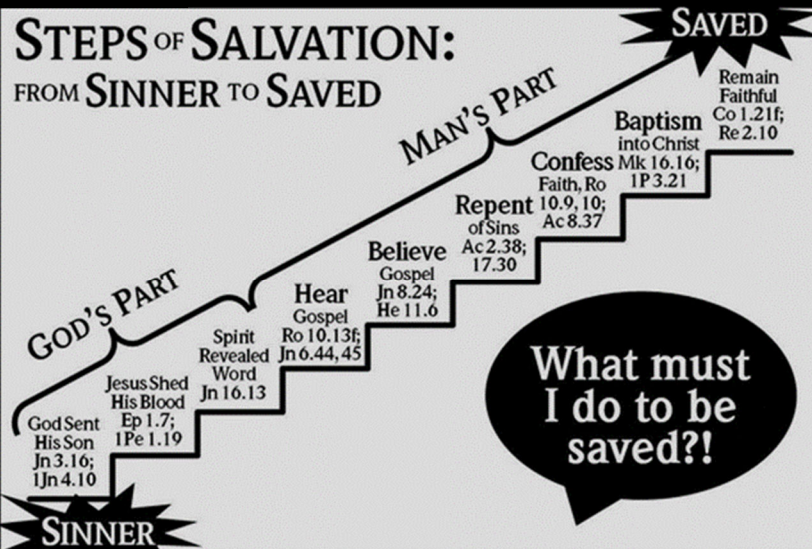
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Glenn Howze
 Helper: David Howze

Scripture Reading—Mark 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).

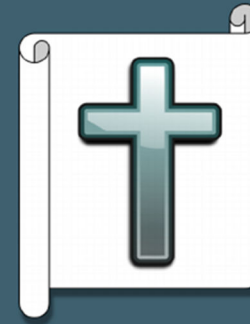
STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

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



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).



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

December 18, 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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Jesus' Birthday? God Didn't Say

Jason Patrick Hilburn

It's interesting that God did not tell us the day Jesus was born from the womb, but the day Jesus was born from the tomb—the first day of the week. Around 1450 B.C. God foretold the exact night the Lamb of God would be taken to be slain (Passover, the 14th day of the first Jewish month), and the Gospel accounts reveal the exact hours certain events occurred on the cross, but not even the month or year of Jesus' birth. There must be a reason for this. It's safe to say that God wants the death of His Son emphasized, not His birth. Jesus Himself commanded men to officially remember His death, not His birth. His death is what made our salvation possible, and He instituted a memorial to ensure that His suffering for us would never be forgotten! "The Lord's Supper" was observed by the early church on the first day of every week ("The Lord's Day," the day Jesus was resurrected), and faithful Christians are still gathering weekly in memory of the Great Savior who died for us all. However, most who believe in Jesus celebrate His birth instead of commemorating His death as the Lord Himself commanded. Perhaps it's good that so many are thinking about Jesus, but it's better to actually do what He said and live for Jesus year-round, continually giving God the gift of faithful worship.

References: Exo. 12:1-28; Lev. 24:5-9; Mt. 26:26-29; Mk. 15:25, 33, 34; 16:9; Lk. 9:23-26; 14:25-35; Jn. 4:23, 24; Acts 2:36-42; 13:30-34; 20:6, 7; 1 Cor. 11:18-34; 16:2; Col. 3:17; 2 Thess. 2:15; Heb. 2:9; 5:9; 10:23-31; 1 Pet. 4:11; Rev. 1:5, 10.

Non-Attendance: A Sin

Gus Nichols

If one member of a local church can ignore that church and treat it as of the devil, refuse to assemble and work with its members for their edification and good, and not be guilty of willful and fatal sin, which - if not repented of, confessed and forgiven - could lead to eternal destruction, then all the members of that congregation could abandon such a church and its work and worship, destroy it off the face of the earth and not sin in so doing.

And, if all the members of one local church can abandon and neglect the work and worship of that one church and not sin - then all the members of all "churches of Christ" on earth can abandon all of them, and destroy all churches of Christ and not sin - this would destroy Christianity off the earth.

Thus, it is a willful sin which, if not confessed and forgiven, will cause one to lose his soul in eternal perdition. If it is a willful sin to ignore and abandon the work and worship of the church for one year, then it is a willful sin to do so for one month, etc. If one member can ignore the church and still be a Christian, then all can do so and the doors of the church can be closed for a year, a month, etc.

All members who have quit attending the services and worship of the church have quit the church, unless the absence is unavoidable. Such backsliders should be restored if at all possible. They are lost if they die in their sin. "Unto him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" (Heb. 2:3).

Those who cannot be taught and restored should be excluded from the fellowship of the church (2 Thess. 3:6, 15; 1 Cor. 5:1-13), No one can be a Christian while ignoring the church which cost the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). A fish can as easily live out of the water as a child of God can live the Christian life apart from the worship and service of the church. Almost all apostasy and backsliding begins as a neglect of the worship of the church (Heb. 10:25-26).

Miscellaneous Thoughts to Ponder

On the inside cover of Jerry Moffitt's book, *Denominational Doctrines*, brother Moffitt writes:

"Really, before one studies much on false doctrine one needs to be in agreement with himself regarding controversy. As long as there is good and evil, truth and error, ministers of the gospel and wolves in sheep's clothing, there will be conflict, controversy and opposition. God blames the conflict on the devil and his false teachers and false doctrine. Jesus, Paul and the early church spent much time in necessary disputes. Since it promoted truth, it was and is a necessary form of evangelism, sharing the same purpose as preaching, i.e., eternal life. It is a form of soul winning and salvation. As much as we may find controversy distasteful and may love peace, we all must do our share in the battle. So love peace and unity, but love truth more."

Paul said that some who claim to know God actually deny Him by living in disobedience to Him. They may think grace covers their ungodly lifestyle, but gratitude for grace should motivate men to live as God desires: *"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being...disobedient...For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world...a peculiar people, zealous of good works"* (Titus 1:16; 2:11-14; cf. Rom. 6:1-12; 1 Jn. 2:3, 4).
—Jason

Just because a good-hearted person is trying his best to live as God desires, that does not make him a "legalist" or someone who's trying to "earn his salvation"! That is simply his love for God being manifested through his obedience (Jn. 14:15, 24; Gal. 5:6; 1 Jn. 5:3). Faithful servants of the Lord, don't be discouraged by Satan's slanderers when they label you and try to discourage you. The faithful will always be called fanatical by the lukewarm (1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 3:15, 16).
—Jason