

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Wilfred Derrick—tests
- ♦ David Howze—arthritis, pain
- ♦ Jim Ward—left us on Jan. 7

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 Shappley—hospice care
- ♦ Cody Skinner—surgery
- ♦ Ronnie Wells—health problems
- ♦ Ann White—knee surgery recovery
- ♦ Sidney White—high blood press.

Continued in next column...

- ♦ Christians overseas, Ukraine
- ♦ 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



February 24

Faith and Fellowship

March 6-10

Gospel Mtg. in Silverhill, AL

May 7-11

Our Gospel Mtg., Jason Holladay speaking

Privileged to Serve



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

Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Ethan Howze; Helpers: Justin Derrick, Caleb Howze, Josh Lawson

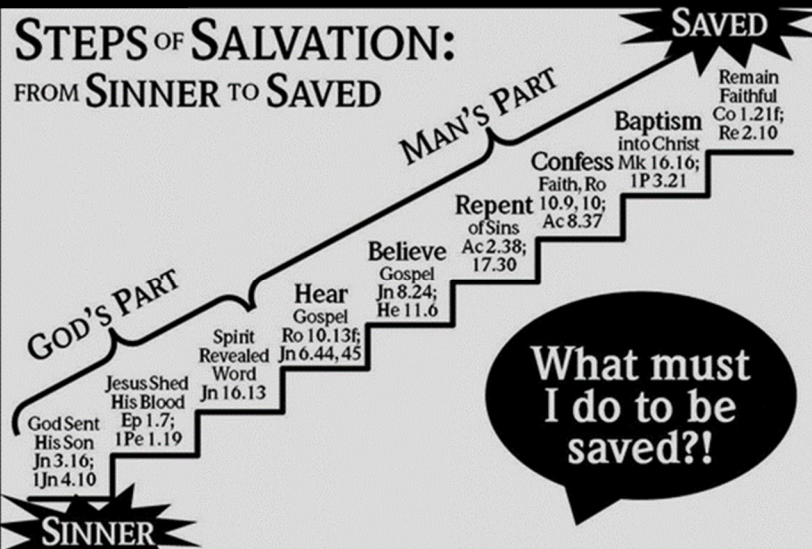
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Mark Howze
 Helper: Josh Lawson

Scripture Reading—Justin Derrick

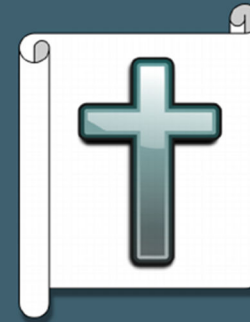
Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** 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

January 15, 2023

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
TheBibleDomain.com
JasonsBibleBlog.com

Is Giving an Act of Worship?

Rusty Stark

One of the questions lately raised about taking up a collection is whether or not GIVING is an act of worship.

This question must be answered in the affirmative — without doubt and without apology. That giving is worship, can be proved easily by a simple, straightforward understanding of the word "worship" and a clear explanation of the concept of giving.

AN EXPLANATION OF WORSHIP

Worship is paying homage or showing adoration toward deity; it is to praise and glorify. "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name..." (Psa. 29:2) "Worship may be described as an expression of awe, devotion, and love — from man, the creature, to his Creator." Another important fact necessary in order to distinguish 'what is worship' and 'what is not' is this: Worship is prescribed by God, that is, He has given directions to man, showing him how to pay homage, show adoration, praise and glorify him (John 4:24). Those actions that God has prescribed as a way of showing homage to Him, are worship.

AN EXPLANATION OF GIVING

1) The giving commanded in the New Testament is a prescribed action (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

2) It was to be done when the saints assembled. If it was not done during a time when the church came together, the money would not have been collected in one place. Paul's stated purpose in making the command is so the money would already be gathered when he arrived at Corinth (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

3) This action was performed for the purpose of: a) glorifying God (2 Cor. 9:11-13), b) showing our love to him (2 Cor. 8:8-9), and c) meeting certain needs for others (Rom. 15:26).

4) Notice that giving was also commanded in a discussion of the worship assembly of the saints (1 Cor. 11:17-16:2). First Corinthians 11:17 begins a discussion of the worship assembly — the time when the church came together into one place. The Lord's supper is discussed in chapter 11:17ff. Chapter 14 shows how preaching and teaching, prayer, and singing fit into our public assemblies. Chapter 16 gives us the prescription for 'how' to give during the time we come together for worship.

GIVING AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

As many have pointed out, worship often included the giving of gifts.

1) In Numbers 18:11, the heave offering brought for sacrifice was called a "gift."

2) One of the tithes given by the Israelites was specifically associated with a feast they ate before God as worship (cf. Deut. 12:17-19).

3) Hebrews 5:1. "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins."

4) The wise men came from the east to worship Jesus (Matt. 2:2). They brought gifts (Matt. 2:11).

5) In Philippians 4:18, the gift sent to Paul from the Philippians was called "an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God."

6) Hebrews 13:16. "But to do good and to communicate (share, be generous) forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Once we understand what worship is, and we understand what giving is, it seems a little silly to ask if giving is worship. A much better question might well be this: How could giving to God, as a demonstration of our love, in the prescribed place and time (the worship assembly), for the purpose of carrying out the mission of the church, be considered anything other than worship?

1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-2 IS STILL APPLICABLE TODAY

As amazing as it seems, some are questioning whether or not we can apply the commands in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 to the church today. Some reason that this was a gift for a special need at the time (needy saints), and that it was never intended to become a pattern for 'how' and 'when' saints give today.

This reasoning is faulty and dangerous. The instructions given to the early church are set forth in Scripture for a reason. We must take such guidelines as normative — providing a pattern for all Christians unless there is some conclusive contextual reason for seeing them in a more limited way. If we don't see it that way, then the New Testament cannot be a pattern. If the New Testament is not a pattern, then the chaos and division in the religious world is justified because we have no guidelines for what 'church' and 'worship' are all about. God is not to blame for the chaos and confusion in the religious world (1 Cor. 14:33). He has left us a pattern, and He commands us to follow it (2 Tim. 1:13).

Furthermore, the need that was met by giving is not a temporary need. Jesus said in Mark 14:7 that the poor would always be with us. The needs of the needy are part of pure religion. This was not simply a 1st century problem. It is an ongoing problem that every century and every generation must deal with. How do we go about meeting this need and fulfilling this obligation? How do we gather money to help the poor? God has not left us in doubt, he has given us the pattern in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

First Corinthians 16:1-2 authorizes a treasury, that is, a collective "store" of money. In Galatians 6, we see a context in which both giving to the poor and providing for the preaching of the Gospel come together. Verse 10 commands us to do good unto "all men." Galatians doesn't tell us 'how' to fulfill this command. We are left to verses like 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 for guidance in 'how.' But notice that Galatians 6:6 commands that 'those' who are being taught should support the 'ones' who do the teaching. Again, nothing is said about 'how,' but the same pattern given for the support of the weak would also provide for the support that allows those who 'preach the Gospel' to 'live of the Gospel' (1 Cor. 9:14).

First Corinthians 16:1-2 is not only still applicable today, it is binding on us today. It is a means of showing our love, a beautiful, divinely prescribed act of worship to our great God.