

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Wilfred Derrick—good results
- ♦ David Howze—arthritis, pain
- ♦ Glenn and Judy Howze—sick
- ♦ Emmie Lou and Liam Mashburn—sick
- ♦ Robert Velasquez—moved to TN, needs prayers

### Others in Need

- ♦ Family of Briana Cook
- ♦ Austin and Avery Derrick—sick
- ♦ Tristen Derrick—Covid-19
- ♦ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ♦ Katie Gonzalez—6, rare disease
- ♦ Anna Katherine Holladay—recovering from wreck, surgery
- ♦ Family of Mr. Holley of Munson
- ♦ Michael Hudson—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Delores Jones' granddaughter—went to ER, swollen throat
- ♦ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ♦ Avis Majors—Covid-19

Continued in next column...

- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Richard McCool—heart attack
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Shane Price—cancer
- ♦ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ♦ Cody Skinner—surgery
- ♦ Denise Vincent—possible broken finger
- ♦ Ronnie Wells—health problems

## 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



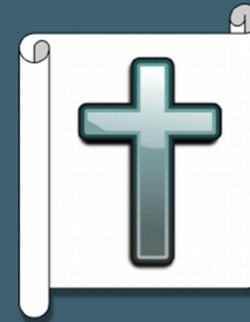
**Announcements**—Mark Howze  
**Song Leading**—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Mark Howze

**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).



# THE BAKER BULLETIN

*The weekly bulletin of*

**The church of Christ in Baker, FL**

**January 22, 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:

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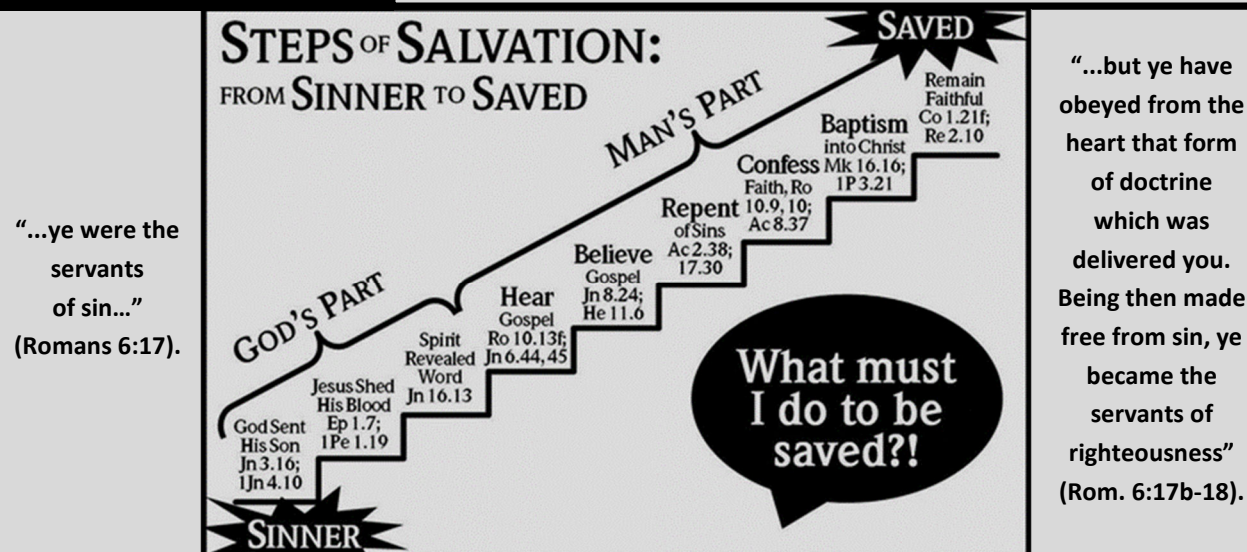
## God Does Not Owe Us a List of Everything He Does Not Want

Jason Patrick Hilburn

Where did God say that using mechanical instruments in New Testament worship is forbidden? If God did not say, "Thou shalt not use mechanical instruments in New Testament worship," are they automatically authorized? Friends, God has never owed man a list of all the things He does not want (as will be shown). To be faithful to Him, we simply need to know what He does want, and give Him exactly that. We must not presume that something other than what He specified is acceptable to Him, as many people in Bible times learned the hard way by being punished or even killed (Gen. 4; Lev. 10; 2 Sam. 6, etc.).

It's worth noting that God did specify mechanical instruments in Old Testament tabernacle/temple worship (2 Chr. 29:25), but NEW Testament worship is NEW and different (Jn. 4:20-24). Now Christians are the temple, and the music is made within us (Eph. 2:21; 5:19). Also, just because something was approved by God in the past, that does not mean it is acceptable today (Ex. 17:6; Num. 20:7-12). Every New Testament act of worship is different than similar Old Testament counterparts, and there is no more authority for

## STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED



mechanical instruments than for burning incense in worship, lighting lamps, sacrificing animals, or other Old Testament shadows of what was to come (Heb. 8:5; 9:23, 24; 10:1).

If God had not specified what kind of music He wanted in New Testament worship, that would be different, but every verse referencing music in NT worship specifies singing (Mt. 26:30; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb 2:12, etc.). Throughout time, when God specified what He wanted, man had no authority to go beyond what God specified. For example,

- **God specified gopher wood for Noah's ark** (Gen. 6:14). When God specified gopher wood, was it necessary for God to list all the other kinds of wood that Noah was NOT to use? For Noah to understand what God wanted, was it necessary for God to say, "Thou shalt not use cedar. Thou shalt not use oak. Thou shalt not use pine," etc.? There are reportedly over 100,000 kinds of trees in the world, so the original command would have multiplied from seven words into a monstrous text, twice the size of the New Testament Scriptures! Also, could Noah have used cedar along with gopher wood, arguing that God did not say NOT to use cedar? Surely the reader can see how that would have been disobedience, which is sin (1 Jn. 3:4).
- **God specified Moriah as the place to offer Isaac** (Gen. 22:2). When God specified where Abraham was to offer Isaac, was it necessary for God to list all the other places in the world Abraham was NOT to offer Isaac? Could Abraham have gone to a different location and say, "But God, you did not say NOT to offer Isaac here"? If Abraham had done things like that, he would not have been mentioned later as a man of obedient faith!
- **God specified the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first Jewish month for the Passover** (Ex. 12:18). When God specified that Old Testament Israel was to observe the Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first Jewish month, was it necessary for God to tell them all the other days in the year the Passover was NOT to be observed?
- **The Lord specified unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine in communion** (Matt. 26:26-29). When the Lord specified these, was it necessary for Him to list all the other kinds of food in the world that are not

authorized? Would it be sinful to add steak to the Lord's table and say, "Well, the Lord did not say NOT to use steak"? Dear reader, if you can see how faulty that reasoning would be, please avoid using that same faulty reasoning regarding the kind of music God specified!

- **God specified singing as the music He desires in New Testament worship** (references listed above). Was it necessary for God to specify all the other kinds of music in the world that are unauthorized? Of course, it was not. Music God desires today requires "*speaking*," "*making melody in your hearts*," "*letting the Word of Christ dwell in you richly*," "*teaching*," and "*admonishing*" (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). Mechanical instruments meet none of those criteria.
- **What if an earthly father specifies milk?** Today if a father sends his son into the store to buy milk, must he list every item in the store his son is NOT to buy? Can the son take his dad's money into that store and buy an expensive video game along with the milk, if the father only specified milk? If the father then gets angry, can the son legitimately argue that it was OK, because his father did not explicitly forbid buying a video game? Friends, is it really that difficult to grasp this concept of not going beyond what an authority figure authorizes? If a doctor prescribes an antibiotic, may the pharmacist dispense morphine, since the doctor did not explicitly forbid morphine?

More examples could be given, but if all these examples seem silly, it's because the idea that God owes man a list of everything that He does NOT want is silly. When God specifies what He wants, man must offer exactly what God specified—nothing more, nothing less, and no substitutions. That holds true, whether it is the Lord's Supper, music, or any other matter in which God specifies what He wants.

Friends, if God had wanted mechanical instruments in New Testament worship, He would have told us. He has always specified what He wanted in worship, from the beginning of time until today (Gen. 4). Without Him telling us to use mechanical instruments in NT worship, there is no authority (Col. 3:17), but He DID repeatedly command all Christians to sing.