

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Donna Parish—health problems
- ♦ Peggy Preece—health problems

Others in Need

- ♦ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ♦ Mariah Hilburn—expecting
- ♦ Michael Hudson—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ♦ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ♦ Thad McCall—health problems
- ♦ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ♦ Shane Price—cancer
- ♦ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ♦ Yoel Urra—improving
- ♦ Ronnie Wells—health problems
- ♦ Craig Wray—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Christians overseas, Ukraine
- ♦ Sound Bible schools, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, the lost, enemies.

Continued in next column...

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



July 9

Men's Meeting

July 16-19

Gospel Mtg. at Mossy Head

July 30

Gospel Mtg. at Union Hill

Privileged to Serve

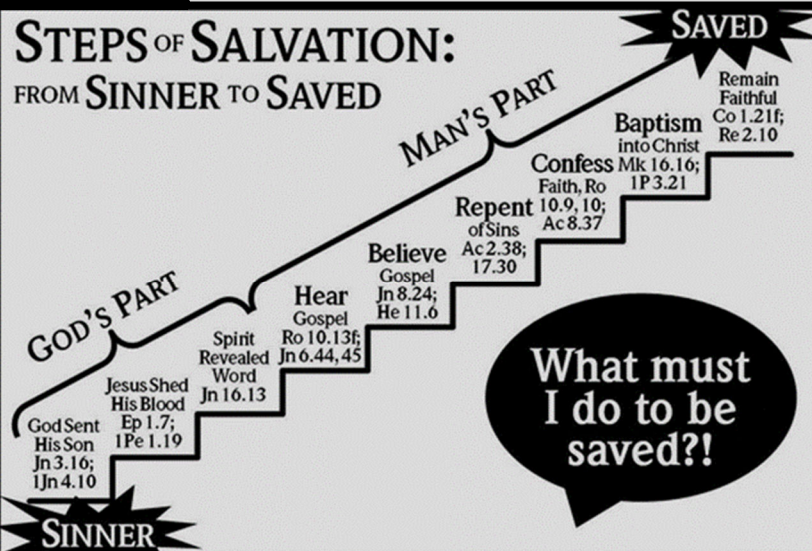


Announcements—Mark Howze
Song Leading—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Caleb Howze
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Leo Derrick; Helpers: Glenn Howze, Josh Lawson, Johnny Moss
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Mark Howze
 Helper: Ethan Howze
Scripture Reading—Ezra Howze

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).



"...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

July 9, 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

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Was Water Baptism Only Required for Jews? (Part 1)

Jason Patrick Hilburn

When Jews in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost asked what they should do to be saved, Peter commanded them to "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins... Save yourselves" (Acts 2:38, 40). In efforts to explain away the clear teaching of Acts 2 and the necessity of water baptism for salvation today, some claim that water baptism was only required for Jews, not Gentiles, and only for a temporary period. They say that today men should listen to Paul instead of what Peter said in Acts 2. Is that true? Did Peter and Paul preach two different Gospels, two different ways to be saved?

Since those under consideration concede that water baptism was necessary for the Jews to be saved in Acts 2, if it can be proven that this command was for all nations to be saved, their position will be refuted. What many fail to understand or admit is that Acts 2 marks the beginning of the Great Commission that Jesus said was for "every creature" / "all nations" (Jews and Gentiles), beginning at Jerusalem: "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Lk. 24:47; Mt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15, 16). The similarities between Luke 24:47 and Acts 2:38 are undeniable, with water baptism implied in Luke 24:47, while explicitly stated in Matthew and Mark's accounts. Notice the **global scope** of the Great

Commission to teach and baptize all nations for their forgiveness, salvation:

Mt. 28:18-20	Mk. 16:15, 16	Luke 24:47	Acts 2:38-40
All power/ authority... in earth. Go... teach all nations	Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature	Preached among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem	at Jerusalem (2:5, 14; cf. 1:8)
		Repentance	Repent
Baptizing them	He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved	Remission of sins	Be baptized...for the remission of sins...Save yourselves
Into the name of the F, S, and HS		In His name	In the name of Jesus Christ

A logical argument can be formed from this information:

- Acts 2:38-40 proves that the Jews had to be baptized to be forgiven/saved.
- Acts 2 records the beginning of the Great Commission, in which Jesus required water baptism for all nations until the end of the world (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15, 16; Lk. 24:47).
- Therefore, since water baptism was required for salvation in Acts 2 at the beginning of the Great Commission, water baptism is required for salvation in all nations until the end of the Great Commission, until the end of the world.

Jesus did not give one Great Commission for the Jews and another for the Gentiles. When those who deny the necessity of baptism today concede the necessity of baptism for salvation in Acts 2, they also concede the necessity of baptism for “every creature” in “all nations” “until the end of the world”! That completely refutes their position, but more evidence will be considered.

Mark’s account most clearly teaches that going “into all the

world” and preaching the Gospel includes preaching water baptism for the salvation of “every creature” (both Jews and Gentiles). Note that prayer is not found at all in Jesus’ Great Commission, yet many today are trying to replace baptism with prayer. Jesus did not say, “He who believes and prays shall be saved,” but rather, “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved” (Mk. 16:16; cf. Jn. 16:23). Prayer for forgiveness under the New Covenant is reserved for those who have already been baptized to be forgiven of all past sins (Acts 8:12-24; 1 Jn. 1:6-9; 2:12), but many do not understand this and take passages like First John 1:9 out of context, saying prayer is necessary, but not baptism. If the Great Commission is to save the lost (Mk. 16:15, 16), why did Jesus include water baptism in it? Why did He not include prayer? Why did Peter not command prayer for the forgiveness of sins in Acts 2:38-40? Why did prayer not save Saul or Cornelius, who were praying before baptism? (Acts 9:11, 18, 19; 10:2, 48; 11:14; 22:16). Why is there no example in the Bible of an alien sinner living under the New Covenant who was told to pray to become saved, to become a Christian?

Looking further into Acts 2, those events were not simply related to the Jews but were basically a precursor of what would happen to the Gentiles in Acts 10. The “promise” of Acts 2:38-39 was not just for the Jews (who were required to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost, Lev. 23:15, 16), but for “all them that are afar off,” which means Gentiles (cf. Acts 2:16-21; Eph. 2:13, 17). Acts 1:8 gives an outline for the book of Acts, with the same Gospel message going into all the world for all men: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Acts 10 records the first Gentiles being converted by the same Peter who commanded repentance and baptism for salvation in Acts 2. Peter commanded the Gentiles to do the same thing as the Jews—“he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48; cf. 2:38). We know from Acts 2:38 the purpose of water baptism in the name of the Lord—it is “for the forgiveness of sins.” On the day the first Gentiles would be saved, Peter said he now realized that in every nation, whether Israel or otherwise, people must do two things to be accepted by God: “...Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10:34-35). They “worked righteousness” to be accepted by God when they were baptized in water for forgiveness as God commanded (Acts 10:6, 34, 35, 43, 47, 48; cf. Ps. 119:172).

To be continued next week, if the Lord wills...

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