

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Wilfred Derrick—health problems
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ◆ Donna Parish—tests, sick lately

### Others in Need

- ◆ Danny Davis—back problems
- ◆ April Estain—expecting in Jan.
- ◆ Mary Lou Joseph—cancer
- ◆ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ◆ Denver Kitzan—surg. recovery
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Shane Price—cancer
- ◆ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ◆ Yoel Urra—improving
- ◆ Ronnie Wells—health problems
- ◆ Craig Wray—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing intense persecution in Pakistan and certain parts of India.

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).

## Privileged to Serve



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

## Events



**December and January**  
*No meals on first Sundays*

**December 10**  
*Men's 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).

# THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

November 26, 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

## "I Know In My Heart That I'm Saved"

Jason Patrick Hilburn

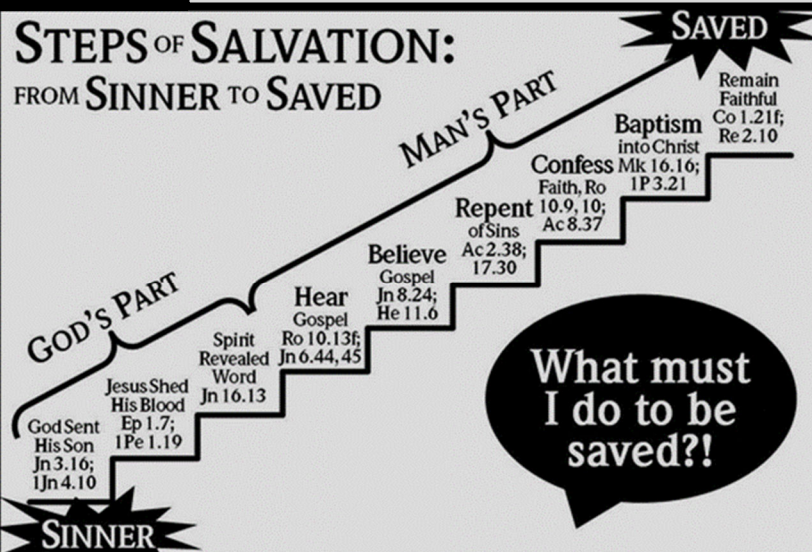
I once asked a woman working in a convenience store if she believed the Bible and if she believed in Heaven and Hell. She nodded her head and said she did. I then asked if she could tell me what I would need to do to go to Heaven if I had never become a Christian. Before she could answer, her female co-worker spoke up rather loudly and said, "Get down on your knees and pray." I asked the co-worker if she had ever read of anyone under the New Testament becoming a Christian by praying a prayer. She said, "I have been a Christian all my life, and I have never read the Bible." I said, "What if the Bible says we are supposed to do something different than to pray?" She replied, "Well, I know in my heart that I'm saved," and walked away. The other woman said she was a believer, but she could not tell me what the Bible says about being saved. I invited her to a Gospel meeting taking place that night to hear what the Bible says, but she did not attend.

### Deceived by Satan

What does the Bible say regarding statements like, "Well, I know in my heart that I'm saved"? The Bible says that we can be deceived by others who are, whether intentionally or not, serving Satan (Mt. 7:15-20; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Jn. 4:1). The aforementioned woman said she had never read the Bible. That most likely indicates that family members, friends, or some religious leader told her to pray the sinner's prayer, even though it is not in the Bible (Mt. 10:34-39; 1 Cor. 15:33). Rather than being like the noble Bereans in comparing men's teachings with the Scriptures (Acts 17:11), she accepted the words of uninspired people as "the Gospel" (Psa. 118:8; Gal. 1:6-9). She then trusted her feelings, which were based on incorrect information, and such is a fatal mistake. Not only did she rely on her subjective feelings regarding

## 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).

her own spiritual state, but she was also willing to carelessly risk my eternal destiny by telling me how to be saved based solely on her feelings!

One wonders how many there are in the world who believe in Jesus and believe they are saved, but have never checked to see what the New Testament says about it. One may also wonder how many people risk not only their own salvation, but the salvation of others, because they refuse to study for themselves to make sure what they believe and teach is right. How many parents risk their children's eternal destinies by continuing to follow blindly some religious tradition without seeing if it is supported by the Holy Scriptures? How many religious leaders and Bible class teachers constantly contribute to precious souls being lost because they have not studied thoroughly enough or in a truly objective manner to find the Truth? (James 3:1). Even though the eternal destinies of many are on the line, they never consider that they might be wrong, simply because they "feel" it is right.

An atheist may "feel in his heart" that he is fine, but that does not make it so (Psa. 14:1; Rom. 1:20-22; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). The Muslims who attacked the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 almost assuredly "felt in their hearts" that what they were doing was right in a religious sense, but that did not make it so (Prov. 14:12). Feelings and emotions are not trustworthy, and people need to understand that lies can stir emotions just as much as the truth! Joseph's brethren deceived Jacob when they brought him Joseph's blood stained coat. The pain Jacob felt that day was real and powerful. It was true pain, but it was based on a lie! (Gen. 37:31-35). All kinds of feelings can be stirred by a lie, including anger, happiness, sadness, and feeling like one is saved.

Consider how easily fictional stories, books, and movies can stir emotions. How many tears have been shed in movie theaters, even though the people were crying about a fictional story? How much laughter and anger has been stirred by such things, even though the story is not based on true events? Emotions can be easily stirred by lies, so what we "feel in our hearts" is not a dependable guide in matters of eternal importance.

### **Deceived by Self**

The Bible not only says we can be deceived by others—it also says we can deceive ourselves: *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves"* (James 1:22). People can deceive themselves into thinking they are right with God, even if they are completely in error (Jer. 10:23). Saul of Tarsus believed firmly that he was doing God's will by persecuting Christ's church, but later called himself the chief of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15). His conscience did not bother him at all while doing those things (Acts 23:1), but one's conscience must be trained by the Truth, or it will be deceptive. Many Jews living after Christ's church was established were very zealous, but their zeal was not based on Truth, and thus they were lost (Rom. 10:1-2). *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"* (Prov. 14:12). Apparently God considered that statement so important that He included it twice in the Book of Proverbs (14:12; 16:25), with the same basic idea

conveyed in many other verses (cf. Prov. 3:5-7; 12:15; 16:2; 26:12; 30:12, etc.). If someone thinks he is saved just because he feels it in his heart, someone needs to show him Jeremiah 17:9: *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

### **Determining Our Status**

So how can one know if he is right with God? John has the answer:

*And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked* (1 Jn. 2:3-6; cf. Rom. 6; Heb. 5:9; James 1:22).

John said that if someone claims to know God, but does not keep His commandments, that person is lying. They do not really have a relationship with God. Subjective emotions are not dependable when it comes to determining what is right and wrong. There is an absolute moral Standard which must be followed, and it is God's Word (Isa. 8:20; Mt. 4:4; Jn. 12:48; 17:17; Acts 17:30-31). Keeping God's commandments is what people of faith do (Heb. 11; James 2:14-26), and that is also what loving people do (John 14:15; Gal. 5:6; 1 John 5:3). However, one cannot keep God's commandments if he never studies God's Word to see what God's commandments are! How dangerous it is to disobey God's commands to study! (Matt. 5:6; 1 Tim. 4:13, 15, 16; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:15-18). This effectively makes one defenseless against all the tricks of the devil to deceive (Psa. 119:11; Mt. 4:3-11; 2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:10-18; Heb. 5:12-14).

Apparently, there will be many religious "believers" condemned to Hell on the Day of Judgment, much to their surprise:

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity* (Mt. 7:21-23; Jn. 8:30-44; 12:42-43; James 2:14-26).

To be saved we must have faith in Jesus Christ as the resurrected Son of God (Rom. 10:17; Jn. 8:24); change our minds and decide to live for God (Acts 17:30); confess our faith to others (Matt. 10:32), be immersed in water for forgiveness (Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:20, 21), and be faithful (1 Jn. 1:7-9). May we all study God's Word, live it, and teach it to others, constantly examining ourselves by God's Standard to truly know if we are saved! (2 Cor. 13:5; Heb. 6:11-12; 12:14-17, 25, 28-29; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; 1 Jn. 1:7; 2:3-6; Rev. 2:10).