

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Wilfred Derrick—in hospital
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems

Others in Need

- ◆ Mrs. Brown, Johnny's friend—fell
- ◆ Chico's father is in bad health
- ◆ Dale Cunningham—pray for good test results
- ◆ Danny Davis—back problems
- ◆ Dawn Holloway—in hospital
- ◆ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ◆ Kyla, Denise's daughter—pregnancy complications
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Allie O'Rourke—head injury recov.
- ◆ Thomas Patterson—health issues
- ◆ Shane Price—cancer
- ◆ Jason Rickmon—cancer, chemo
- ◆ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ◆ Taylor's grandmother—health problems
- ◆ Yoel Urra—improving

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Craig Wray—stage 4 cancer
- ◆ Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing intense persecution in Pakistan and certain parts of India.
- ◆ Pray for peace, pray for the bereaved, the persecuted, sick/suffering, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, sound Bible schools, the lost, 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).

Privileged to Serve



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

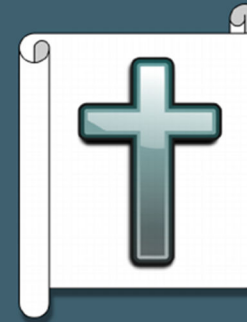
Events



February 28th
 4th Wednesday Singing

May 5-11
 Our Gospel Meeting with Jared Knoll

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

February 25, 2024

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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Ignorance is Not Bliss

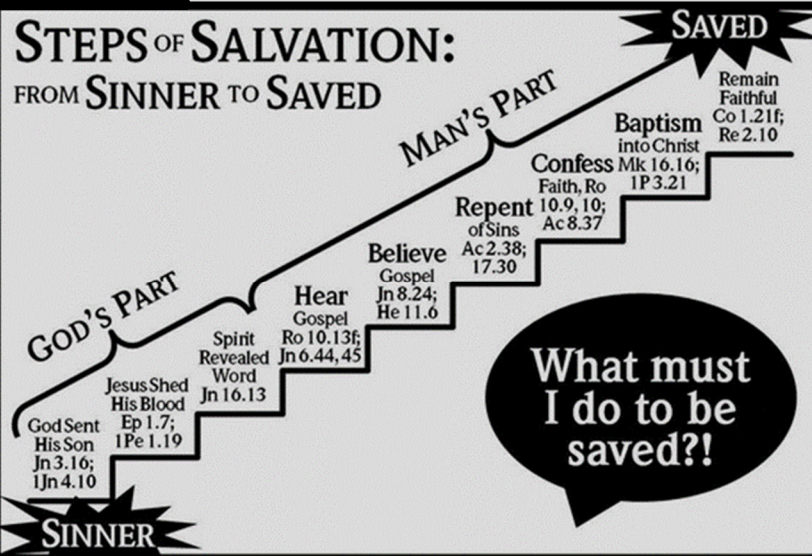
Jason Patrick Hilburn

First John 2:16 lists three categories of sin: *"the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life."* These are ways Satan tempts men to sin against God (Gen. 3; Mt. 4), but the Bible also speaks of another category of sin—sins of ignorance. Many have sinned against God in ignorance without being motivated by selfish desires of the flesh, lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. Even so, ignorance does not excuse disobedience to God, so the saying, "Ignorance is bliss" is not a Biblical concept.

Under the Law of Moses God had specific requirements for people who had sinned in ignorance to be forgiven, clearly implying that ignorance did not automatically excuse their actions or lack thereof (Lev. 4, 5; Num. 15). In the New Testament Peter told the Jews that he knew they were in ignorance when they denied Jesus and desired a murderer to be set free instead, but he still commanded them to *"Repent, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out"* (Acts 3:13-19; cf. 2:38). Saul of Tarsus was not motivated by selfish, sinful desires when he was persecuting the Lord's church. After his conversion he said, *"I did it ignorantly"* and *"in all good conscience"* (1 Tim. 1:13; Acts 23:1), but ignorance was no excuse, and he still had to repent and be baptized to be forgiven (Acts 22:16). Paul later told the pagans in Athens that he knew they were worshiping in ignorance, but now God commands all men everywhere to repent, because judgment is coming, and ignorance will not be excused (Acts 17:30-31; cf. 14:16).

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 Great Commission itself is proof that God wants all men to learn how to be saved through Christ, and that they will not be saved in ignorance (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16). If people could be saved in ignorance, why would Christians bother traveling all over the world teaching them to repent and obey God for salvation? God has plainly stated that those who do not know Him and do not obey the Gospel will be separated from Him forever in Hell (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Mt. 25:31-46; 1 Jn. 2:3-6). Man has a responsibility to seek God (Acts 17:27; Heb. 11:6), and those who do not believe in Him and serve Him are “*without excuse*” (Rom. 1:19-22; Psa. 19:1).

Sadly, there are many sincere religious people today who honestly believe they are faithfully serving God, but, like Paul before his conversion, they are mistaken and are still in their sins (Prov. 14:12; Rom. 10:1-3). In the Bible, even after people became Christians they were commanded to keep studying so as not to be led astray by false teaching in ignorance (1 Tim. 4:13-16; 2 Tim. 2:15-18; 2 Pet. 3:15-18). Let us all study diligently to make sure we are not living in sins of ignorance, and once we find and obey the Truth, let us labor tirelessly to reach and teach those who do not know God or His requirements for salvation.

The Progression of Sin

Chad Dollahite

Someone once said, and rightly so, “Don’t dabble in sin because when you are through with sin, sin won’t be through with you!” One would be hard-pressed to find a more accurate statement. Numerous instances throughout the Bible prove the aforementioned statement to be true. Sin has a certain progression about it that, once begun, is rather difficult to stop. God knows this, and that is why He has provided numerous examples in the Bible from which we can learn by example (as opposed to experience) to stay away from sin altogether, due to its progression from “little” to “much.” Let us notice just a few examples of such.

There are three avenues of sin—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. John wrote, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 Jn. 2:15-16). All sin, in whatever form, will approach a person in one or more of these ways. Jesus faced and overcame all three of these avenues of sin in His temptation by Satan (Matt. 4:1-11). Having faced all three of these avenues and having overcome them, the statement in Hebrews 4:15 is especially significant: “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all

points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” Jesus may not have faced the exact same temptation as one today (i.e., the temptation to use drugs, smoke, etc.), but He faced and overcame all three avenues of sin and, having done so, was tempted in all points like us, yet He was without sin. It is also important to remember the words of 1 Corinthians 10:13—“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

Any temptation one faces is a temptation that is common to everyone, in that it comes through one of the three avenues mentioned in 1 John 2:16. Knowing these three avenues and knowing that God will provide a way of escape will assist us greatly in overcoming temptations.

Adam and Eve fell prey to the progression of sin (Gen. 3). The text says that Eve “saw that the tree was good for food” (lust of the flesh), and she saw “that it was pleasant to the eyes” (lust of the eyes), and she also saw that it was “a tree to be desired to make one wise” (the pride of life). Through these three avenues, Satan caused Eve to believe the lie, “Thou shalt not surely die,” and she partook of the forbidden fruit (along with her husband), thus opening the door in this world to death, suffering, sorrow, and all manner of evil. Truly, when Adam and Eve were through with sin, sin was not through with them!

Achan fell prey to the progression of sin (Jos. 7:1ff.). The city of Jericho was the firstfruits of the land of Canaan and, as such, all the spoils were to be consecrated to God (6:19). The remainder of the conquest of Canaan belonged to Israel, but the spoils from Jericho were specifically to be dedicated unto God. Achan, however, took of the spoils to keep for himself. Achan would eventually confess, “When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them” (7:21). Note the progression; Achan said he saw, he coveted, and then he took. Nothing wrong was committed when he saw the spoils, but then he coveted. Even in that act, Satan was not through with him, and Achan gave in to the temptation by taking the spoils for himself. That act (no doubt seeming so small a thing at the time) cost thirty-six men their lives (7:5), and it also cost Achan his own life, as well as the lives of his family (7:24-25). The progression of Achan’s sin not only hurt him, but those closest to him and his nation, as well.

Sin is a dangerous thing, and it should not be taken lightly. Satan is not satisfied with one, two, or three sins; he wants to keep the progression going until you are completely destroyed and have lost your soul. Do not “play” with sin, for, as the saying goes, “When you are through with sin, sin won’t be through with you!”