

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

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

### Others in Need

- ◆ Travis Barrow—health problems
- ◆ Shannon Burn—surgery recovery
- ◆ Danny Davis—back pain
- ◆ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ◆ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ◆ Howard and Elizabeth Grace—health problems, surgery recovery
- ◆ Dawn Holloway—health problems
- ◆ Tony Jones—recent stroke and fall
- ◆ Kari Miles—expecting
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Thomas Patterson—health issues
- ◆ Shane Price—cancer
- ◆ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ◆ Melanie Skinner—cancer
- ◆ Randal Ward's grandson CJ—sick
- ◆ Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing persecution in

Continued in next column...

Pakistan and certain parts of India.

- ◆ Pray for peace, pray for the bereaved, the persecuted, sick/suffering, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, the lost, enemies.
- ◆ Pray for our evangelistic efforts and for more opportunities.

## Events



**December 25**

*4th Wednesday Singing*

*No fellowship meals in December and January*

***Our Faith and Fellowship for December has been postponed until February***

**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).

## 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

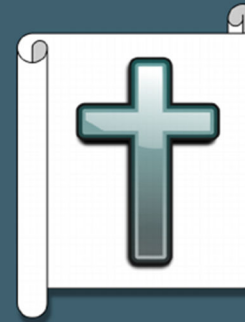
**Serving the Lord's Supper**

Head: Leo Derrick; Helpers: Johnny Moss, Ezra Howze, Caleb Howze

**Lord's Supper PM**

Head: Mark Howze  
Helper: Caleb Howze

**Bible Reading:** Braden Hilburn



# THE BAKER BULLETIN

*The weekly bulletin of*

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

**December 22, 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

### Jason Hilburn's Info:

850-826-8198

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TheBibleDomain.com

JasonsBibleBlog.com

## Parents' Responsibilities in the Home

In my first five years of parenthood, I have discovered that parents wear a number of different hats. As a father, I am frequently called upon to be an expert in botany, animal identification and behavior, astronomy, and any other topic my son or daughter see fit to ask about. As well, I am expected to be able to reach anything, fix anything, and generally do anything that they need done. Lately, I have been a judge, called upon to settle disputes and administer justice (always to the other party, of course), and a chauffeur, shuttling my children around as needed. And of course, I have done all of this in conjunction with my lovely wife!

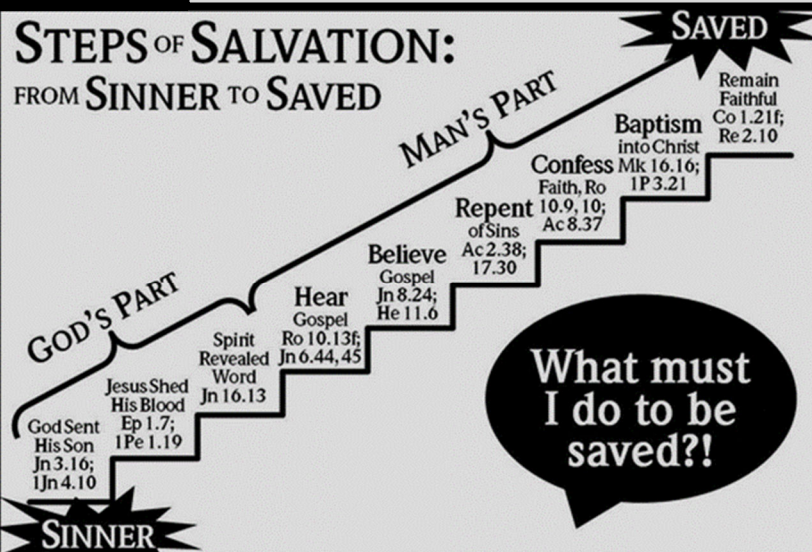
With so many different jobs involved in parenting, it can be easy to neglect the greatest role of all: spiritual guide. As a parent, the spiritual upbringing of my children rests squarely on my shoulders. And as a father, that responsibility is even more grave, since upon me rests the ultimate headship of the home (Ephesians 5:22-23, 6:4), along with the guardianship my wife provides as a godly mother (Titus 2:4-5). But how do I accomplish such a daunting task? Two obvious ways come to mind:

### Let God Be Seen And Taught In Your Home

The principle of Moses' famous instruction to the parents in

## 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).

Israel rings just as true today as it did all those years ago:

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

It was expected that the Jewish mother and father would keep the events they had experienced fresh in the minds of their children; unfortunately, they did not, and the nation suffered.

Today, we should take every opportunity to put Christianity in front of our children. We ought to look for chances to pray (and have our children pray) regularly. How sad that many families do not even pray before meals, let alone study as a family! And we should do our best to incorporate Bible study and instruction in the lives of even our very young children. We might be surprised what they can pick up!

### **Set the example as parents**

Inevitably, children will do what they see, and it is therefore vitally important that they see two parents who are active and involved in the Lord's church. Consider some of the results of a survey on the subject:

- When both parents were active in the work of the church, 93% of the children remained faithful.
- When one parent was active, 73% of the children remained faithful.
- When both parents were marginally active, their children remained faithful 53% of the time.
- When both parents attended infrequently, only 6% of their children continued in the faith.

Frightening statistics aren't they? Or perhaps they are encouraging, if we are doing our best to be faithful and involved. Either way, we should be able to invite our children as Paul did Corinth: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).  
—Chris Perry

## **Before We Criticize...**

There are times when mistakes are made and things need to be pointed out. And, unfortunately, we all know that offering criticism can sometimes make a bad situation even worse. Serious thought needs to go into what we will say. Maybe it would help if we would ask the following questions before offering criticism:

### **Why am I doing this?**

Do I really want to help this person, or am I just doing this to make myself feel better? Am I trying to improve the situation, or do I just want to say, "I told you so!"? What is my motive? "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4). Regardless of what the world believes, we don't have the right to let off some steam at the expense of another. Criticism that is only going to make us feel better needs to be kept to ourselves.

### **Do I have a right to criticize?**

Was I available when this person could have used some help before? Can I sympathize with what they are going through? Can I offer some positive suggestions to go along with the criticism? Some people like to just sit on the sidelines and criticize the labors of others. Such people really have no right to criticize.

### **Have I examined myself?**

It is not right for me to give criticism that I am not willing to take. Jesus says that I must make sure that the log is out of my eye first, then I can offer to help my brother get the speck out of his eye (Matthew 7:3-5). Criticism is respected when it comes from a respectable person, but no one appreciates a hypocrite.

### **What will I say, and how will I say it?**

This is very important. I must choose my words very carefully. They have the power to build up or to destroy (Proverbs 12:18; 16:24). As Paul said, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6). What we say, and the way we say it, will make all the difference in the world.

### **Will it glorify God?**

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Whose glory am I seeking? Am I saying something to help the cause of Christ or just to be heard? If it is just to be seen and heard by men, then truly I have my reward (Matthew 6:1-6).  
—Heath Rogers