

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Jennifer Derrick—health problems
- ♦ Wilfred Derrick—health problems
- ♦ Jeff Mashburn—Covid
- ♦ Donna Parrish—better lately

### Others in Need

- ♦ Travis Barrow—rare cancer
- ♦ Patsy Benson—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Shannon Burn—another surgery
- ♦ Danny Davis—back pain
- ♦ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ♦ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ♦ Jennifer Foxworth—health problems
- ♦ Howard & Elizabeth Grace—health
- ♦ Dawn Holloway—health problems
- ♦ Tony Jones—health problems
- ♦ Kari Miles—expecting
- ♦ Oscar—home, not well
- ♦ Shane Price—cancer
- ♦ Melanie Skinner—cancer
- ♦ Randal W.'s grandson CJ—sick
- ♦ Ron Yusnukis—surgery recovery

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



### March 2

No fellowship meal in March

### March 9

Men's Meeting

### March 26

4th Wednesday Singing

## Privileged to Serve



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

# THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

March 2, 2025

## 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

## ChatGPT and The Thief on the Cross

### Question for ChatGPT:

If people use the penitent thief on the cross to say that people do not have to be baptized in water today to be saved, how would you respond?

### ChatGPT said:

"If someone argues that the penitent thief on the cross proves that baptism is not necessary for salvation today, here are a few ways you could respond:

#### 1. The Thief Lived Under the Old Covenant

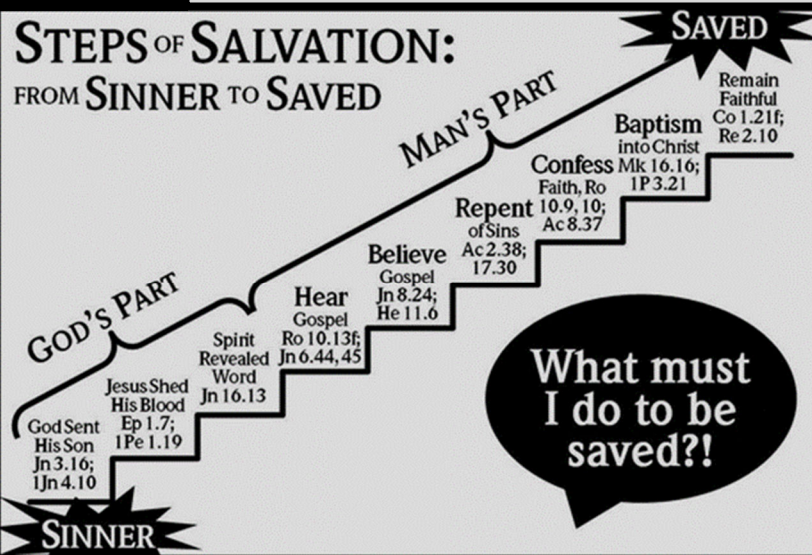
- The thief on the cross was saved before Jesus' death and resurrection, meaning he was still under the Old Covenant (Hebrews 9:16-17).
- Baptism in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) was instituted *after* His resurrection.
- Therefore, the thief's salvation was based on Jesus' direct authority while He was on earth, not on the terms of the New Covenant.

#### 2. Jesus Had the Authority to Forgive Sins Directly

- Throughout His ministry, Jesus forgave sins directly (e.g., Mark 2:5-12; Luke 7:48-50).
- He had the power to save the thief in the same way, without

## 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).

requiring baptism.

- After His resurrection, however, Jesus commanded baptism as part of the gospel (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16).

### 3. The Great Commission Came After the Thief's Salvation

- Jesus' command to baptize (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:16) was given after His resurrection.
- The church and the new covenant plan of salvation began on Pentecost (Acts 2).
- The thief was not subject to these commands because he died before they were instituted.

### 4. Baptism for Salvation is Clearly Taught in the New Testament

After Jesus' resurrection, baptism is consistently associated with salvation:

- **Mark 16:16** – “He who believes and is baptized will be saved.”
- **Acts 2:38** – “Repent and be baptized... for the forgiveness of sins.”
- **Acts 22:16** – “Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins.”
- **Romans 6:3-4** – Baptism unites us with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.
- **1 Peter 3:21** – “Baptism now saves you.”

### 5. God's Plan of Salvation is Different for People Today

- The thief on the cross was an exceptional case where Jesus personally granted salvation.
- Today, we follow the New Testament pattern of hearing the gospel, believing, repenting, confessing Jesus as Lord, being baptized, and living faithfully (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; Revelation 2:10).

#### Conclusion:

The thief on the cross does not serve as an example of New Testament salvation. He was saved by Jesus under the Old Covenant before Christian baptism was commanded. Today, under the New Covenant, baptism is an essential part of God's plan for salvation.”

## Finding Strength in the Lord

Everybody has their ups and downs. Some days are great, while others bring challenges that may wear us down. In difficult times, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed, but as Christians, we must remember that our strength does not come from ourselves—it comes from the Lord.

David declared, *“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him”* (Psa. 28:7). When we trust and obey God, we are never alone (Jn. 14:23). He is our Protector, our Refuge, and the Source of our endurance. Even when the future seems uncertain, we can rest in the assurance that He is with us, and we therefore know what our ultimate future is! *“...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”* (2 Tim. 1:12; cf. 4:7-8).

The apostle Paul faced many hardships—beatings, imprisonment, shipwrecks, and persecution—yet he remained steadfast because his strength came from the Lord. In prison he wrote, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”* (Php. 4:13). This verse is not about achieving self-centered goals or worldly success but overcoming all circumstances through faith in the Lord (Romans 8:28). No matter how heavy our burdens get, God gives us the strength to carry on through Christ: *“Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus...my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”* (Php. 4:6-7, 19). *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you”* (1 Pet. 5:7).

When the struggles come, we must turn to God in prayer and lean on His Word. His promises remind us that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). He sees our struggles, hears our prayers, and provides exactly what we need at the right time. *“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”* (Isa. 40:31). *“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD”* (Psa. 27:14).

Our strength from the Lord is not meant to be kept to ourselves—it is meant to be shared. God wants us to encourage one another and lift each other up. *“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do”* (1 Thess. 5:11; cf. Heb. 10:23-25). When our faith is strengthened, we can help others strengthen theirs. Encouraging words, help offered when needed, or a reminder of God's promises can make all the difference in someone's life. As we rely on God for our own strength, let us also be a source of strength and encouragement to those around us.

Have you been feeling overwhelmed or discouraged? Make sure you are faithful to God (2 Cor. 13:5), and then take comfort in knowing that He is with you. He loves you, and He will be your strength, your shield, and your ever-present help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1). Keep your focus on Him and the hope of Heaven, and you will have the endurance you need to face the challenges of life with confidence and peace. —JPH