Prayer List

Of Our Number
- **Janice Carnley**—Shoal Creek
- **Jennifer Derrick**—health problems
- **Wilfred Derrick**—health problems
- **Jeff Mashburn**—health problems

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...

- Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing persecution in 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

March 9
Men's Meeting

March 26
4th Wednesday Singing

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).
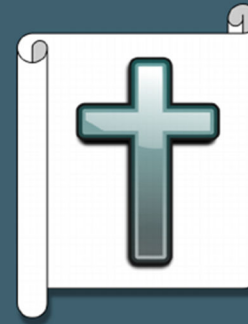
Privileged to Serve

Announcements: 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

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..." (Romans 6:17).

SAVED
Remain Faithful Co 1.21f; Re 2.10

Baptism into Christ Mk 16.16; 1P 3.21

Confess Mk 16.16; Faith, Ro 1P 3.21

Repent of Sins Ac 2.38; 8.37

Believe Gospel Ac 2.38; 17.30

Hear Gospel Ro 10.13f; He 11.6

Spirit Revealed Word Jn 16.13

Jesus Shed His Blood Ep 1.7; 1Pe 1.19

God Sent His Son Jn 3.16; 1Jn 4.10

MAN'S PART / GOD'S PART / SINNER

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 BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of
The church of Christ in Baker, FL

March 9, 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

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Pros and Cons of Using A.I. in Religious Matters

(Part 1 of 2) by Jason Patrick Hilburn

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly prevalent in many areas of people's lives, including business, education, and even religious discussions. AI chatbots, such as ChatGPT, can provide quick access to Biblical information, answer various questions, and assist in studying the Scriptures. With this new technology at our fingertips, many are beginning to ask: Should AI be used in religious matters? If so, how can it be used responsibly?
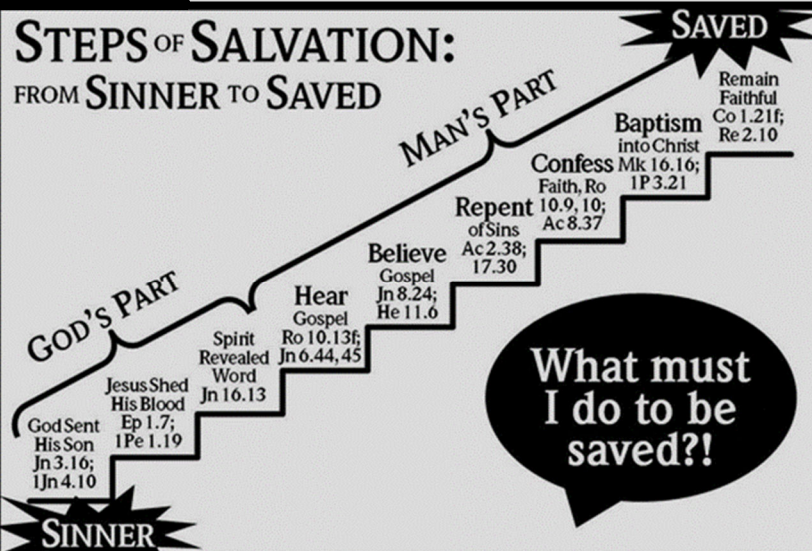
While AI offers certain advantages, it also presents significant dangers, including the potential for misinformation. This article will address both the benefits and risks of using AI in religious matters, highlighting how it can be a useful tool while also emphasizing the importance of personal Bible study and critical thinking.

Things to Note in General

- **Different AI chatbots provide different answers.** Not all AI systems are equally reliable. After testing several, I found

that ChatGPT reasoned better than others, and it was consistently ranked as the highest-performing AI chatbot by various sources.

- **AI is an uninspired source.** It is not inherently wrong to quote uninspired sources when used correctly, as Paul did in Acts 17:28 *("For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said…")"*. A Christian might quote an atheist on certain subjects (e.g., "Atheist John Doe concedes that the morals of Christianity are good for society"), just as one might cite a historian or scientist, provided the information is accurate and relevant. However, an uninspired source must never be treated as the ultimate authority.

- **AI draws from online data, which can be both good and bad.** AI has access to vast amounts of information, meaning it can pull from both reliable and unreliable sources. This reinforces the need for careful evaluation of its responses (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Pros of Using AI in Religious Matters

1. **Accessibility & Convenience** – AI is available 24/7 and can quickly retrieve Scriptural references, historical context, and insights from various perspectives.

2. **Logical Reasoning & Evidence-Based Responses** – Unlike some sources that merely state opinions, ChatGPT typically supports its conclusions with logical reasoning. However, it is ultimately up to us to verify the accuracy of its reasoning.

3. **Bible Study Assistance** – AI functions similarly to Bible software but is more user-friendly and capable of answering complex questions. It can search for words, phrases, or concepts in the Bible quickly and efficiently.

4. **Unbiased Scripture Analysis** – AI can provide non-denominational perspectives that may help people understand the Bible without denominational biases. However, its responses depend upon its sources, so complete impartiality is not guaranteed. Users must always compare AI-generated answers with the rightly divided Word of God to ensure accuracy (Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Timothy 2:15).

5. **Evangelism & Teaching Aid** – AI can assist in preparing written teaching materials in a logical, orderly way, helping the user to get his thoughts organized in a structured manner. It can also generate images that can be used in teaching or preaching.

Testing Doctrinal Consistency – I have tested ChatGPT's answers while logged in and while logged out, using browsers in anonymous mode. While responses were generally consistent, I did notice variations, often in how AI initially worded its answers to avoid offending any group. For example, it was initially hesitant to recommend any religion or religious group, but after pressing it for direct objective answers it recommended Christianity and said the churches of Christ align most closely with Biblical teachings. Even so, this does not automatically validate its conclusions. As with any tool, its responses must always be measured against the Bible, the divine Standard. Obviously, if it recommended some other religious group, the answer would need to be scrutinized just as much.

Cons of Using AI in Religious Matters

1. **AI Lacks Biblical Discernment** – AI does not have faith, spiritual maturity, or the ability to apply Biblical wisdom as a mature Christian would. While it can analyze and summarize Scripture, it lacks personal conviction and spiritual understanding. Since the Scriptures are the source of salvation, and Scriptures can be twisted, **relying on AI for spiritual guidance should never replace diligent Bible study** and learning from faithful Christians (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2, 15-18; 3:15-17; 2 Peter 3:15 -18).

2. **Potential for Bias & Error** – AI is trained on human data, which may contain doctrinal errors, denominational bias, or secular influences. While it attempts to remain neutral, it can still reflect the biases of its training data. AI also tends to phrase responses carefully to avoid offending any group, which can result in vague or softened answers. This cautious approach does not necessarily mean the most objective or Biblically accurate response will be given. Also, when a user is logged into an account that retains past interactions, AI-generated answers may become subtly influenced by previous interactions, reinforcing the user's preferences or beliefs.

3. **Risk of Over-Reliance** – Some may become spiritually lazy, allowing AI to replace personal Bible study. If AI becomes a crutch rather than a tool, it can weaken one's ability to discern Truth independently, making him susceptible to Satan's devices (Psalm 119:11; Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 4:1).

4. **Contextual Misinterpretation** – AI sometimes takes verses out of context, misapplies Scripture, or omits parts of verses. I have personally had to reason with ChatGPT several times to get it to recognize its mistakes in handling certain Biblical passages.

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