

Prayer List

Of Our Number

- ♦ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ♦ Wilfred Derrick—improvement
- ♦ Mariah Hilburn—expecting
- ♦ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ♦ Kari Miles—expecting
- ♦ Johnny Moss—surgery recovery

Others in Need

- ♦ Travis Barrow—rare condition
- ♦ Patsy Benson—stage 4 cancer
- ♦ Charles Compton—health problems
- ♦ Rhonda Compton—health problems
- ♦ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ♦ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ♦ Jennifer Foxworth—health problems
- ♦ Jamie Goodman—surgery soon
- ♦ Curtis Grady—severe burns
- ♦ Russell Gunter—surgery recovery
- ♦ Howard & Elizabeth Grace—health
- ♦ Tony Jones—health problems
- ♦ Harold Morris—Milton hospital
- ♦ Melanie Skinner—cancer treatments
- ♦ Randal W.'s grandson CJ—sick

Continued in next column...

- ♦ Kenneth Wicker—cancer, hospice
- ♦ Ron Yusnukis—surgery recovery
- ♦ 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

Events

If the Lord wills...

- May 18**
Men's Meeting
- May 28**
4th Wednesday Singing
- June 1-4**
Sasser Gospel Meeting

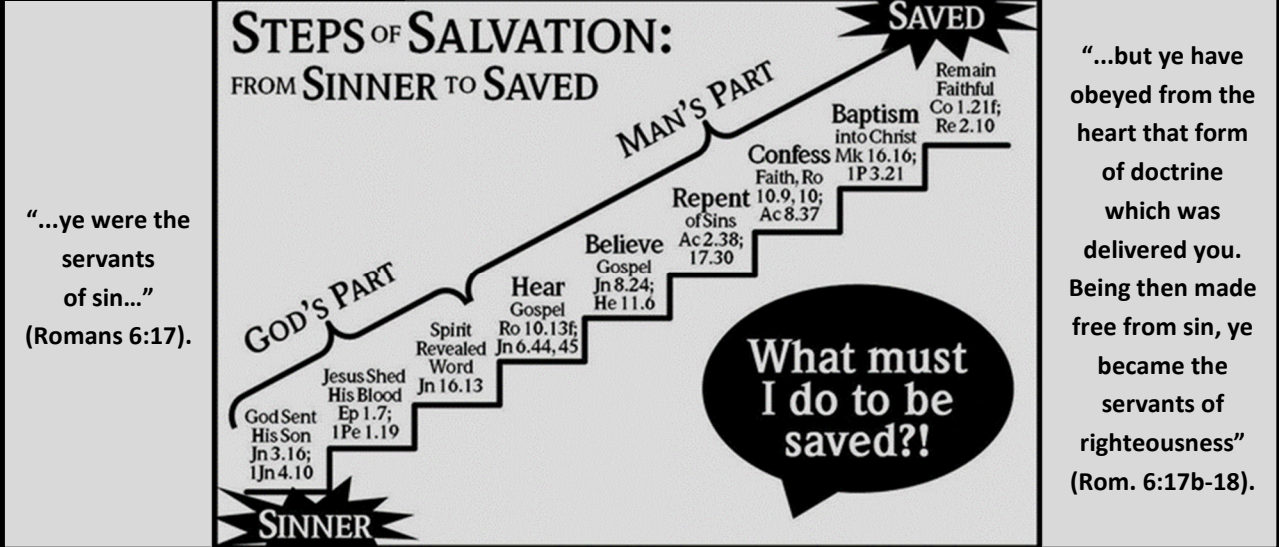
Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** 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).

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



THE BAKER BULLETIN

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

May 18, 2025

Meeting Times

- Sundays:**
10AM Bible Class
11AM Worship
6PM Worship
- Wednesdays:**
7PM Bible Class

Other Information

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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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A Few Words from Jason

We officially welcome Trey and Kari Miles to the congregation here! Trey and Kari have been worshiping in Pensacola for a while now and have been a great asset to the Leonard Street congregation, but they are living in Crestview, and they have decided to be a part of the Baker congregation now. We are also excited for them as they are expecting a baby soon. As God said, *"Rejoice with them that do rejoice..."* (Romans 12:15).

It's also exciting for me to announce that Mariah Hilburn recently found out that she and Braden are having another baby! Since I am the *Grandpa*, I guess I am one of the blessed old men of Proverbs 17:6! *"Children's children are the crown of old men..."* Amanda (Grammy) also gets a crown, but I won't dare call her old...

Why James Mentioned the Reading of Moses in Acts 15:21

Jason Patrick Hilburn

Acts 15 records the apostles and elders meeting in Jerusalem to resolve a crucial issue: **Did Gentile converts need to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses to be saved?** Peter, Paul, and Barnabas all argued against binding

the Law. James agreed and said, *“Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols [i.e., meats offered to idols, v. 29], and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood”* (Acts 15:19–20). James then made a statement that may be difficult to understand at first glance: *“For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day”* (Acts 15:21).

What Did James Mean in Acts 15:21?

James was **not reinstating the Law of Moses**. Rather, he was explaining why Gentile Christians should avoid certain practices that would be especially offensive to Jews and hinder their salvation. He was not contradicting the conclusion of the council. The Law of Moses had been nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14; Ephesians 2:14–15; Romans 7:4), giving way to *the “Law of Christ,” “the perfect Law of Liberty,” “the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”* (Galatians 6:2; James 1:25; Romans 8:2; cf. Hebrews 9:15-17; 10:8–9).

James was acknowledging Jewish sensitivities. Even though the Law of Moses was no longer binding, it was still being read in synagogues every Sabbath. Jews everywhere were still being raised to regard things like eating meat from strangled animals as deeply offensive. Even Jews who had become Christians often had conscientious objections to eating “unclean foods” or meat offered to idols (Acts 10:9-16; Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 8).

James was encouraging Gentiles to show respect. James urged Gentile Christians to abstain from these practices—not because they were all inherently sinful (fornication clearly was), but because they could create unnecessary offense or division, hindering souls from being saved.

Why Include “Fornication”?

Fornication (sex outside of a lawful marriage) was always sinful, but James included it here because it was especially prevalent and accepted in many Gentile cultures. It was often tied to idolatrous temple rituals, where

sexual acts were part of pagan worship. Many Gentiles may not have fully grasped the sinful nature of fornication, especially if they came from backgrounds where it was normalized. Including it in the list emphasized the moral purity demanded by the Gospel, and the need for a complete break from both idolatry and the immorality often tied to it.

Connection to 1 Corinthians 8–10

Regarding the concept of refraining from personal liberties that could cause problems for others (such as eating meat offered to idols), Paul later taught the same principle James applied:

- **1 Corinthians 8:** Avoid causing others to stumble over matters of conscience, such as eating meat offered to idols.
- **1 Corinthians 9:** Paul became *“all things to all men”* and gave up personal liberties so he could reach both Jews and Gentiles with the Gospel.
- **1 Corinthians 10:** Paul urged Christians to avoid giving offense to Jews, Gentiles, or the church of God—for the sake of saving souls.

Like James, Paul emphasized that Christians should sometimes **limit their liberty voluntarily** to avoid divisions and hindrances to evangelism.

Conclusion

Both Jewish and Gentile Christians were free from the Law of Moses (Acts 15:9-11; Galatians 3:24-29), yet their conduct still needed to reflect love and wisdom in how it affected others. Acts 15:21 does **not** authorize binding the Law of Moses—it simply recognizes that **Jewish influence remained strong** in the first century A.D., and Gentiles were encouraged to avoid creating unnecessary offenses. The council’s decision—guided by the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:28)—emphasized the importance of **putting souls above self**, a principle repeated throughout the New Testament and still greatly needed today (Philippians 2:3–5; 1 John 2:10).