

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—vertigo
- ◆ Wilfred Derrick—health problems
- ◆ Mariah Hilburn—expecting
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ◆ **Others in Need**
- ◆ Travis Barrow—rare condition
- ◆ Phil Benson—kidney dialysis
- ◆ Danny Davis—health problems
- ◆ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ◆ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ◆ Jennifer Foxworth—health problems
- ◆ Jamie Goodman—colon cancer
- ◆ Curtis Grady—severe burns
- ◆ Russell Gunter—surgery recovery
- ◆ Howard & Elizabeth Grace—health
- ◆ Tony Jones—health problems
- ◆ Joel Murphey—B-cell lymphoma
- ◆ Stacey Scherl—surgery
- ◆ Melanie Skinner—cancer treatments
- ◆ Joanna Wilson—expecting

Continued in next column...

- ◆ 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 and for more opportunities.

Events

If the Lord wills...

Aug. 3
Meal after AM Worship

Aug. 10
Men's 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

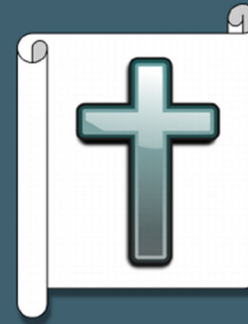


We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve



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



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

August 3, 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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Must All Christians Travel the World?

(Part 1) By Jason Patrick Hilburn

Jesus said to His apostles, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16). This is often referred to as the Great Commission, but does this mean every Christian must personally travel the world to fulfill it? While Jesus' command clearly emphasizes the need for the Gospel to reach the entire world, the idea that every Christian must personally travel to distant parts of the world, or constantly move from place to place, to fulfill this command is a misunderstanding of God's plan. While certain Christians, based on opportunity and ability, take the Gospel to other regions of the world, the Bible teaches that God designed the church to have both those who go and those who stay.

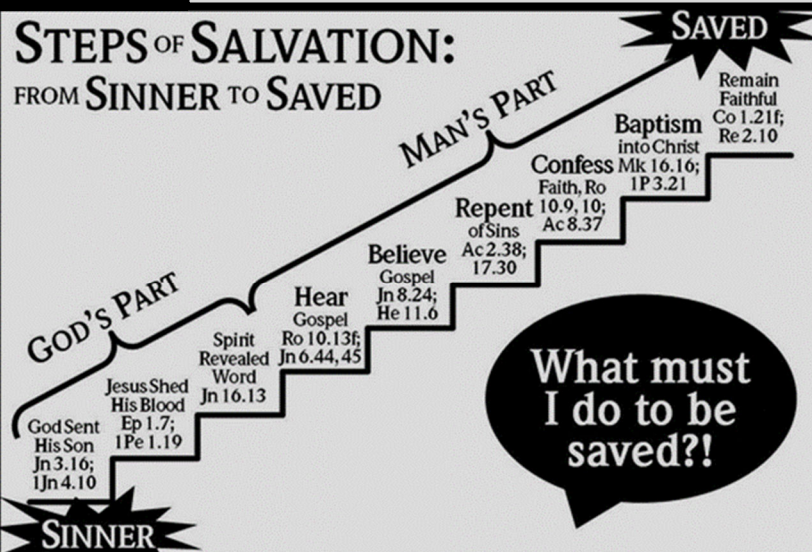
The Great Commission's Perpetual Nature

The Great Commission was first given to the apostles, who were tasked with taking the Gospel into all the world (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8). Jesus' instruction to teach others "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20) demonstrates that the mission would continue beyond the apostles themselves. By teaching new disciples to carry on the work, the spreading of the Gospel would not depend solely on the apostles' efforts.

Paul emphasized this in his instructions to Timothy: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). This principle shows that the Great

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).

Commission is ongoing, with each generation teaching the next. However, this continued work does not require every Christian to travel to foreign lands or to relocate constantly.

The Example of the Early Church Shows That Not All Christians Traveled

The early church itself provides clear evidence that not all Christians traveled constantly. While some, like the apostle Paul, traveled extensively, many Christians remained in their local communities to help the church grow and thrive.

Most Christians remained in Jerusalem until persecution arose (Acts 8:1–4). When they were scattered, they went everywhere preaching the Word—not because every Christian had been assigned to travel, but because they were forced to leave their homes. Even then, it was not a deliberate plan of global travel, but a providential spreading of the Gospel through displaced Christians. Later, as stability returned, churches throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria *“had peace and were edified”* (Acts 9:31). These congregations would not have existed without Christians remaining in those regions. Earlier, in Acts 2:42–47, the Jerusalem church had stayed together, devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, and prayer—demonstrating how local stability helped the church grow in number and maturity.

Paul’s greetings in Romans 16:3-5 refer to *“the church that is in [Priscilla and Aquila’s] house.”* Their ability to maintain a home congregation further shows that not all Christians were traveling constantly. Paul also greeted many individual Christians by name in Romans 16, demonstrating that they still lived there, and he could address them as part of a stable congregation. This would not have been possible if all Christians were constantly on the move. Additionally, passages such as Hebrews 3:13 — *“But exhort one another daily...”* — imply consistent interaction and presence, something only possible when Christians remained in the same location.

The Practical Ramifications of Every Christian Traveling

If all Christians were required to either travel far from home or live a life of constant movement, several essential elements of God’s design for the church would be compromised. Consider the following:

1. Local Congregations Would Be Undermined or Cease to Exist. The New Testament repeatedly emphasizes the importance of strong local congregations. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in *“every church”* (Acts 14:23), and Paul and Jesus addressed individual congregations by name (e.g., 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; Revelation 2–3). These established congregations required members who stayed in place to worship together, edify one another, and carry out organized works of service and benevolence. If all Christians were constantly moving, local congregations would struggle to exist. Without committed members staying in one place, there would be no stable foundation for worship,

spiritual growth, or oversight.

2. Elders Could Not Effectively Shepherd the Flock. The role of elders is vital in God’s design for the church. Paul charged the Ephesian elders to *“shepherd the church of God...among which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers”* (Acts 20:28). Peter instructed elders to *“shepherd the flock of God which is among you”* (1 Peter 5:2).

Elders are tasked with knowing their flock and watching out for their souls (Hebrews 13:17). Likewise, members are commanded to know those who are *“over”* them (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13). This work requires stability and consistency — something incompatible with constant travel. If elders were always on the move, how could they perform their jobs? If members were always moving, how could elders do their jobs? God’s plan for the local church would completely fall apart. Elders could not develop meaningful relationships with their congregation or provide the spiritual oversight that God intended.

3. Accountability Would Be Lost. The Bible teaches that Christians are not only responsible for their personal faithfulness, but are also accountable to one another within the local congregation. James wrote, *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another...”* (James 5:16; cf. 5:19-20). Paul commanded the church in Galatia, *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one...”* (Galatians 6:1; cf. Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15).

When Christians are rooted in a stable congregation, they can build relationships that produce spiritual transparency, correction, and encouragement. This kind of accountability is almost impossible when members are constantly moving from place to place. If elders, teachers, or fellow Christians cannot get to know a person over time, how can they help keep that soul on the narrow path? How could withdrawal of fellowship be effective if there was never a sense of true fellowship in the first place?

It has already been noted that elders must know who their members are and have an ongoing relationship with them. If Christians float from one place to another with no consistent oversight, they effectively remove themselves from the accountability God designed for the local church.

4. The Church’s Edification Would Suffer. The church is not only instructed to spread the Gospel but also to build up its members (Hebrews 3:13; 10:23-25). Paul emphasized this in Ephesians 4:11-16, where he described the roles of teachers, pastors (elders), and evangelists in strengthening the body of Christ. Without a stable membership contributing to teaching and encouragement, the church’s ability to edify itself would be severely hindered.

To be continued next week, Lord willing...