

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—surgery Oct. 20
- ◆ Mariah Hilburn—expecting, nausea
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Annette Garrett - Non-H. lymphoma
- ◆ Kiptyn Gillis—non-cancerous tumor
- ◆ Jamie Goodman—colon cancer
- ◆ Russell Gunter—surgery recovery
- ◆ Howard & Elizabeth Grace—health
- ◆ Andrew Hickman—health problems
- ◆ Tony Jones—health problems
- ◆ Joel Murphey—B-cell lymphoma
- ◆ Stacey Scherl—surgery
- ◆ Melanie Skinner—cancer treatment

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Several sick in Pakistan
- ◆ 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...

- Oct. 22**
4th Wednesday Singing
- Nov. 2**
Meal after AM Worship

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

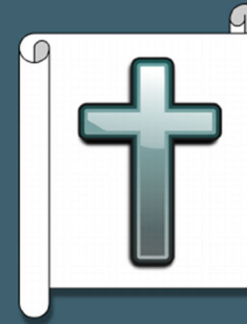


We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve



Announcements: Glenn Howze
Song Leading: Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Mark Howze
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Johnny Moss; Helpers: Leo Derrick, Ethan Howze, Mark Howze
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Glenn Howze
 Helper: Rick Hemphill
Bible Reading: Trey Miles



THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

October 19, 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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"Christ Sent Me Not to Baptize" — What Paul Meant

Jason Patrick Hilburn

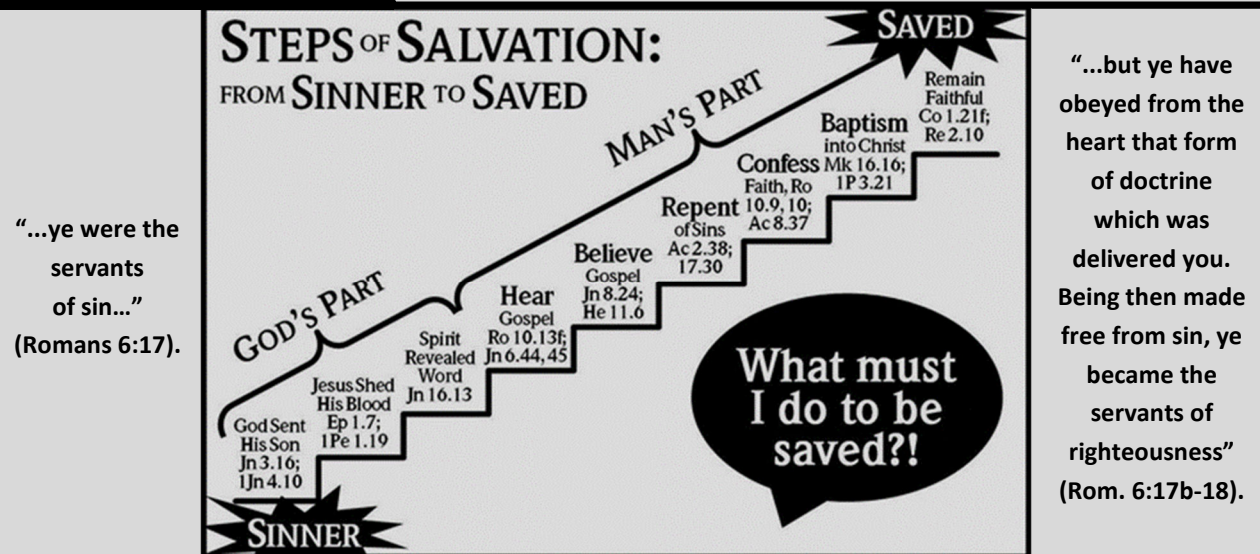
Was Paul teaching that water baptism is not necessary for salvation when he wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:17, *"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel..."*? Notice:

1. Paul did baptize. Paul baptized people such as Crispus, Gaius, and the household of Stephanas (1 Cor. 1:14–16). His words cannot mean that he never baptized anyone. Paul was carrying out the Great Commission of our Lord for all nations to believe and be baptized for their salvation (Matthew 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–16).

2. Paul taught that baptism is essential. Throughout his writings, Paul emphasized baptism as the point when one enters Christ and shares in His death:

- **Romans 6:3–5** — *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."*
- **1 Corinthians 6:11** — *"And such were some of you: but ye*

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED



are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (see “washing of water by the Word” in Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5; Heb. 10:22).

- **1 Corinthians 12:13** – *“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free...” (cf. Eph. 5:25-26; Gal. 3:26-28).*
- **Galatians 3:27** – *“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*
- **Ephesians 5:25-26** – *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word” (see “washing of regeneration” (rebirth) and “renewing of the Holy Ghost” in Titus 3:5, and “born of water and the Spirit” in John 3:5; cf. 6:63).*
- **Colossians 2:11-13** – Baptism is when one is *“buried with Him”* and *“raised with Him”* to be *“forgiven”* of *“all trespasses.”*
- **Titus 3:5** – God saved us with the *“washing of regeneration”* (rebirth; see *“washing of water”* in Ephesians 5:26; John 3:5; Heb. 10:22).

Paul would not have contradicted himself on this topic or any other. Furthermore, Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit did not contradict Himself—He would not have minimized the purpose of baptism in one passage while teaching its essential role in salvation in many others (Matt. 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–16; John 3:5; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3–5; Gal. 3:26–27; Eph. 5:25–26; Col. 2:11–13; Titus 3:5; Heb. 10:22; 1 Pet. 3:20–21).

3. Paul himself was baptized to wash away his sins. Before beginning his ministry, Paul obeyed the Gospel through baptism. Jesus sent Ananias to tell Paul (Saul) what he *“must do”* (Acts 9:6). Ananias said, *“And now why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (Acts 22:16). Paul had believed in Jesus and had been fasting and praying, but none of that washed away his sins. Paul understood what Jesus taught: baptism is a *“must”*—it is the final step in the salvation process of a penitent believer; the moment forgiveness occurs. In fact, Paul had been fasting for three days, mourning over his sins, and he refused to eat until after he was baptized to wash away those sins (Acts 9:18-19; 22:16). This shows the urgency and necessity of baptism.

4. The context explains Paul’s statement. The Corinthians were dividing into cliques—some saying, *“I am of Paul,” “I am of Apollos,”* etc. (1 Cor. 1:12–13). Paul was thankful he had not baptized more people there, lest further divisions occur or some might claim that they were baptized in the name of Paul instead of Christ (1 Cor. 1:15–31; 2 Cor. 4:5). His main mission as an apostle was to preach the Gospel, not to personally perform every baptism. Baptizing could be delegated, and it was often expedient to do so, for the reasons already mentioned.

5. Jesus may have avoided baptizing for a similar reason. Although Jesus *“baptized more disciples than John”* (John 4:1), the following verse clarifies that *“Jesus Himself baptized not, but His disciples.”* If Jesus had baptized personally, some might have exalted themselves over others, claiming superiority because they were baptized by Him. They may have even started a separate group for people who had been baptized by Jesus, causing sinful division. Paul was apparently trying to avoid that same problem, but that does not prove that baptism was unnecessary for salvation. Water baptism was *“for the remission of sins”* before and after the cross (Mark 1:4; Acts 2:38), so the baptisms administered by both Jesus’ early disciples and Paul were for salvation but conducted in a way to prevent division. Apparently, Jesus could have said the same thing as Paul: *“My Father sent me not to baptize,”* although Jesus commanded water baptism before and after the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

6. A modern parallel: When American preachers teach overseas, it is often wise to allow local brethren to perform baptisms. Some potential converts wrongly think being baptized by an American makes it more valid or special. Having a faithful local Christian perform the baptism helps prevent pride and builds long-term relationships in the local church. Some Americans may mistakenly think being baptized by a “big name” brother may carry more weight or make the baptism more special. Such thinking stems from pride and is not a good way to begin one’s walk with Christ.

Conclusion: When the context is correctly considered, Paul’s statement in 1 Corinthians 1:17 is in complete harmony with everything he and the Holy Spirit taught about baptism. The passage does not minimize baptism—it clarifies Paul’s role. He was not sent to perform the act personally, but to proclaim the Gospel that commands it. The Gospel and water baptism are undeniably linked: without the Gospel, baptism has no meaning, and without baptism, obedience to the saving Gospel is incomplete.