

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—surgery recovery
- ◆ Mariah Hilburn—expecting, nausea
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems

### Others in Need

- ◆ Phil Benson—kidney dialysis
- ◆ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ◆ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ◆ Jennifer Foxworth—health problems
- ◆ Melba Fuqua—health problems
- ◆ Annette Garrett - Non-H. lymphoma
- ◆ Kiptyn Gillis—non-cancerous tumor
- ◆ Janice Godwin—surgery recovery
- ◆ Jamie Goodman—colon cancer
- ◆ Howard & Elizabeth Grace—health
- ◆ Andrew Hickman—health problems
- ◆ John Moss—surgery recovery
- ◆ Melanie Skinner—cancer treatment

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

### If the Lord wills...

Nov. 9

Men's Meeting

Nov. 26

4th Wednesday Singing

## Privileged to Serve

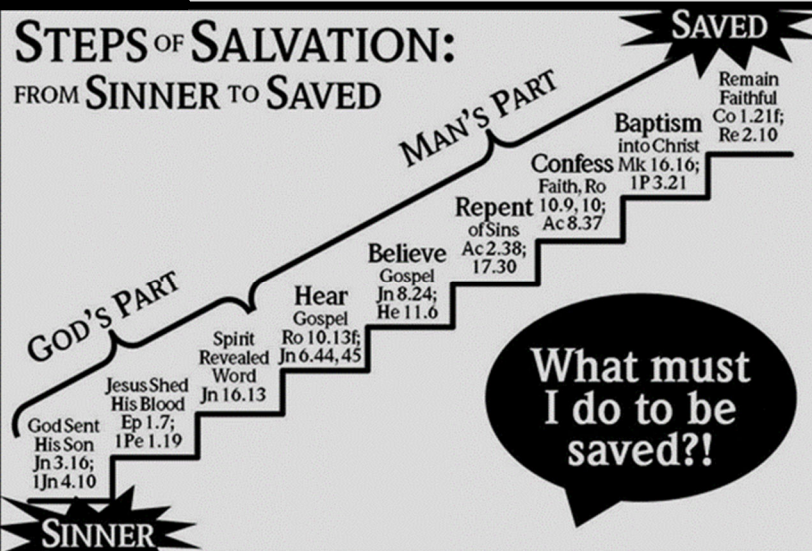


**Announcements:** Glenn Howze  
**Song Leading:** Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Mark Howze  
**Serving the Lord's Supper**  
 Head: Johnny Moss; Helpers: Leo Derrick, Ethan Howze, Mark Howze  
**Lord's Supper PM**  
 Head: Glenn Howze  
 Helper: Rick Hemphill  
**Bible Reading:** Trey Miles

**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).

## 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).

# THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

November 9, 2025

## Meeting Times

### Sundays:

- 10AM Bible Class
- 11AM Worship
- 6PM Worship

### Wednesdays:

- 7PM Bible Class

## Other Information

Building: 5761 Hwy. 4  
 Mail: 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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## Why Ephesians 2:8-9 Does Not Teach Salvation by Faith Alone

Jason Patrick Hilburn

- **Acts 19** records the day the Ephesians were saved, and they were not saved by faith alone or told to pray—they were baptized to wash away their sins, just as others had been (Acts 19:5; cf. 2:38; 10:35; 22:16). Ephesians 2 was written after they had been saved by grace through obedient faith, submitting to Christ in baptism (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Gal. 3:26-27).
- **Paul was not contrasting faith and obedience, but grace and the Law of Moses.** Many Jews struggled to accept that the Law they had followed for 1,500 years had been removed (Rom. 7:4-7; Gal. 2:11-16; Col. 2:14-17; Heb. 7:12; 10:9-10). Some were still binding works of the Law of Moses on Christians for salvation after the cross (Acts 15; Galatians). Much of the New Testament was written to address that error, and Ephesians 2 is one such passage. Paul wrote against works of the Law of Moses, not obedient acts of faith required under the New Covenant (Acts 10:35; Php. 2:12). The "works" excluded in Ephesians 2:9 are works of that abolished Law, not works of obedient faith in Christ. The remainder of the chapter makes that clear (Eph. 2:11-16). Paul added "lest any man should boast" because Jews who trusted in the works of the Old Law, man-made traditions, and their lineage often boasted and gloried in those things instead

of glorying in the Lord (Lk. 18:11-12; Rom. 2:17, 23; 3:27-30; 1 Cor. 1:31). Salvation by grace through obedient faith removes all grounds for boasting, because submission to the Savior is not self-merit. Humble obedience is the only way to truly acknowledge His divine authority, and no one can be saved without it (Mt. 7:21-27; Lk. 6:46; Jn. 14:15, 21-24; Heb. 5:9).

- **“Not of yourselves” means salvation is not earned by human merit or works of the Law of Moses** but received through obedient faith responding to God’s grace. In Acts 2:38-41, lost sinners were told to *“repent and be baptized...for the forgiveness of sins...Save yourselves.”* This is in full harmony with a *proper understanding* of Ephesians 2, because man’s faith must respond with obedience to Christ to be saved (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:47; Heb. 5:9), not obedience to Moses (Eph. 2:8-16; cf. Mt. 17:3-5).
- **God’s grace does not exclude obedience—it teaches its necessity.** Paul said grace *“teaches us”* to obey and live righteously (Titus 2:11-12; cf. 1:16; Heb. 5:9; Mt. 7:21-27). Grace provided the plan of salvation; faith obeys it. Though salvation is a gift (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:23), it is a *conditional* gift, as the promised land was (Num. 13:2; Josh. 6:2-3; Rom. 6:16-18). God offers it freely, but He requires faith that obeys His commands to receive it and keep it (Mt. 7:21; Lk. 6:46; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 5:9; 10:23-31; 1 Pet. 1:22; 3:20-21).
- **Faith must work through love to be effective in salvation.** Paul wrote that *“faith which worketh by love”* is what avails (Gal. 5:6; cf. Acts 10:35; Rom. 2:6-11) – not *“faith only.”* James plainly stated, *“by works a man is justified, and not by faith only”* (Jam. 2:24).
- **Paul repeatedly taught the necessity of baptism.** The same letter containing Ephesians 2:8-9 also says that they had been *“sanctified and cleansed...with the washing of water,”* as commanded by God’s Word (Eph. 5:25-26; cf. Rom. 6:3-5, 16-18; Col. 2:11-13; Titus 3:5). That *“washing of water”* is the *“one baptism”* of Ephesians 4:5, and water baptism is implied throughout the letter (*“in Christ”* in 1:3, etc.; cf. Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27). Paul taught that baptism is essential, and Paul himself had been told to *“Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins”* (Acts 22:16).
- **Many essential steps are not mentioned in Ephesians 2.** Salvation also involves repentance (Lk. 13:3), confession (Mt. 10:32), and water baptism (1 Pet. 3:20-21). We must learn how all steps in God’s plan of salvation harmonize without dismissing any of them.

**The Ephesians were saved by grace when their faith caused them to obey Christ in baptism for the forgiveness of sins—not by faith alone, and not by works of the Law of Moses.**

<http://www.JasonsBibleBlog.com>

## Things to Which Salvation is Ascribed

1. Christ’s words (John 6:63).
2. The Holy Spirit (John 16:8; Titus 3:5).
3. Faith (Romans 10:10).
4. Repentance (Luke 13:3; 2 Peter 3:9).
5. Baptism (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5).
6. God (John 3:16; Titus 2:11).
7. Christ’s recorded works (John 20:30–31).
8. Calling on His name (Acts 2:21, 38; 22:16).
9. Christ’s name (Acts 4:12).
10. Christ’s resurrection (Romans 4:25).
11. Christ’s death (Romans 5:6-10).
12. Hope (Romans 8:24).
13. Confession of faith (Romans 10:10).
14. Hearing (Romans 10:15–17).
15. Preaching (1 Corinthians 1:18).
16. The Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1–2).
17. Love (Galatians 5:6).
18. Grace (Ephesians 2:8).
19. Ourselves (Philippians 2:12).
20. The love of the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
21. Christ (1 Timothy 1:15).
22. Heeding and continuing in the doctrine (1 Timothy 4:16).
23. God’s mercy (Titus 3:5).
24. Obedience (Hebrews 5:9).
25. Christ’s blood (Hebrews 9:14).
26. Works of faith (James 2:24).

THE QUESTION IS NOT WHICH ONE OF THESE WILL SAVE;  
ALL COMBINED ASSURE US OF SALVATION.

—Author unknown, adapted