

## Prayer List



### Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—tests upcoming
- ◆ Rick Hemphill—physical rehab.
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—blood press. issues

### Others in Need

- ◆ Bobby Adams—passed away
- ◆ Francis Adams—health problems
- ◆ Terri Adams—cancer
- ◆ Johnny Angel—back surgery, knee infection
- ◆ Fran Carlos—back surgery
- ◆ Bonnie Crites—knee pain, surgery
- ◆ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ◆ Kim Dunn—cancer
- ◆ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ◆ Jennifer Foxworth—health problems
- ◆ Trent Foxworth—sick, colitis
- ◆ Melba Fuqua—hospice
- ◆ Annette Garrett - Non-H. lymphoma
- ◆ Kiptyn Gillis—non-cancerous tumor
- ◆ Jerry Madden—cancer

Continued in next column...

◆ Amy Snyder—injured shoulder

◆ Ron Yusnukis—back surgery

◆ 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

## 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...

**April 19**

*Men's Meeting*

**May 3-6**

*Our Gospel Meeting with Ed Casteel*

## Privileged to Serve



**Announcements:** Leo Derrick

**Song Leading:** Sunday—Mark Howze; Wednesday—Ethan Howze

### Serving the Lord's Supper

Head: Glenn Howze; Helpers: Caleb Howze, David Howze, Ezra Howze

### Lord's Supper PM

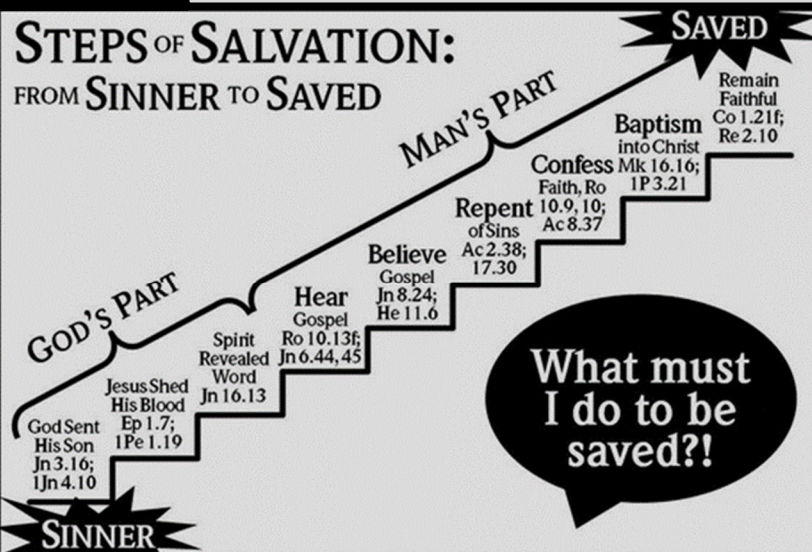
Head: Johnny Moss  
Helper: Jacob Mashburn

**Bible Reading:** Rick Hemphill

**Faithful Worship** — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Php. 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

April 19, 2026

## 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

### Jason Hilburn's Info:

850-826-8198

hilburnjasonp@gmail.com

TheBibleDomain.com

JasonsBibleBlog.com

## Christians and Lethal Force

Much has been said about the "church shooting" in Texas on Sunday, December 29, 2019 — the right and wrong of it. The initial shooter was clearly wrong. He was evil incarnate, whose history of bad choices ended in a final bad choice to take innocent human life. God's judicial standard played out in textbook fashion: "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in His own image" (Gen. 9:6).

Which raises the question, "Is lethal force ever justified?" We are not addressing the war question or whether a Christian can be a cop. Most Christians, I assume, would not object to such, based on Romans 13 and the role of civil government. But what about individual Christians? Is it ever right for a Christian to take the life of another human being?

If killing is motivated by personal hatred, anger, jealousy, or revenge, the answer is clearly 'no', for those passions are themselves sinful, and any behavior flowing from them would be sinful as well (Matt. 15:18-19; Gal. 5:19-21, etc).

But note carefully God's reason for justifying the use of deadly force in Genesis 9: "for God made man in His own image." The reason a murderer deserved to die was not because his life had no value, but because the life of his innocent victim did.

That principle carried forward to the Mosaic age. Though the sixth command said, “Thou shalt not kill” (Ex. 20:13), other laws justified the use of lethal force, both judicially (21:14) and individually (22:2). The unspoken reason for such provisions was clear: the life of the innocent victim, created in the image of God, had value.

The same principle is true today. We, too, are created in the image of God with great worth. No wonder that God, in the New Testament age, retained capital punishment as a just response to evil (Rom. 13:4; Acts 25:11).

But what about Christians? Although Jesus condemned the use of armed force to further the kingdom (Matt. 26:51-54; John 18:36), He actually commanded the apostles to arm themselves (Luke 22:35-39). Those swords were not used to defend against persecution (Acts 12:1-3). So, what purpose did they serve? They would have certainly deterred evil threats against their lives in their numerous evangelistic journeys.

Some push back, “Turn the other cheek” (Matt. 5:39). But this was spoken concerning vengeance (vs 38); and protecting innocent life is not taking vengeance. Others say, “Love your neighbor” (Matt. 22:39). To which we reply, “Exactly!” Is it “loving” for a man to allow an intruder to kill his neighbor, rape his wife, and sell his daughter into slavery? Pity the poor family whose head interprets love this way. First Timothy 5:8 is not just about food.

Lethal force does not negate trust in God. David trusted God even as he picked up the stones for his sling. The Psalmist wrote, “Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (Psa. 82:4). So, let’s do that!

—Warren King

**“And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing. Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end. And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough” (Luke 22:35-38).**

## 6 Suggestions on Inviting Your Family and Neighbors to Bible Class or Worship

It’s so simple — and yet it can be so effective. “Come and go to Bible class with me.” Sometimes that’s all it takes. Here are a few suggestions on inviting your family and neighbors to Bible class or the worship assembly.

- **Be Soul-Conscious.** “Lift up your eyes” (John 4:35). Realize that every person you meet is headed to Heaven or Hell. The waitress. The grocery clerk. The banker. The postman. The doctor. Lawyer. Salesman. Nurse. Neighbor. Friend.
- **Be Enthusiastic.** “Fervent in spirit” (Romans 12:11). Warm, cheerful, pleasant. Speak highly of Jesus. Speak highly of the local church. Tell somebody with a smile on your face and a sparkle in your eye how glad you are to be associated with this church.
- **Be Natural.** Don’t force your invitation or religion on them. Relax. Go with the flow. To a newcomer to your community you might say, “Hey, if you are looking for a loving church that truly follows God’s Word, come and check us out. We’d love to have you visit.”
- **Be Specific.** Don’t just say, “Come visit us sometime.” Give details. “What about visiting with us this coming Sunday . . . we start at 10AM for Bible Study, 11 for worship, 6PM Sunday nights, and 7PM on Wednesdays.”
- **Be Hospitable.** “Given to hospitality” (Romans 12:13). A dinner invitation will show the love of Christ, give an opportunity get to know someone and make them more likely to visit—especially if it is taking them out after the service!
- **Be Persistent.** Keep on keeping on. Good salesmen tell us it takes about 10 attempts/contacts to make a sale. Never give up. Invite, invite, invite. Pray, pray, pray.

Sometime ago, I visited someone who had attended our services and who lives near the church building. He had come because of an invitation from one of our members. He said, “You know, I was just waiting for someone to invite me. I didn’t want to barge in.” **Know anybody like that?**

Unknown author, adapted