

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—dizziness
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—blood press. issues

Others in Need

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

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

Events

If the Lord wills...

April 5

Meal after AM Worship

May 3-6

Our Gospel Meeting with Ed Casteel

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—Mark Howze; Wednesday—Ethan Howze

Serving the Lord's Supper

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

Lord's Supper PM

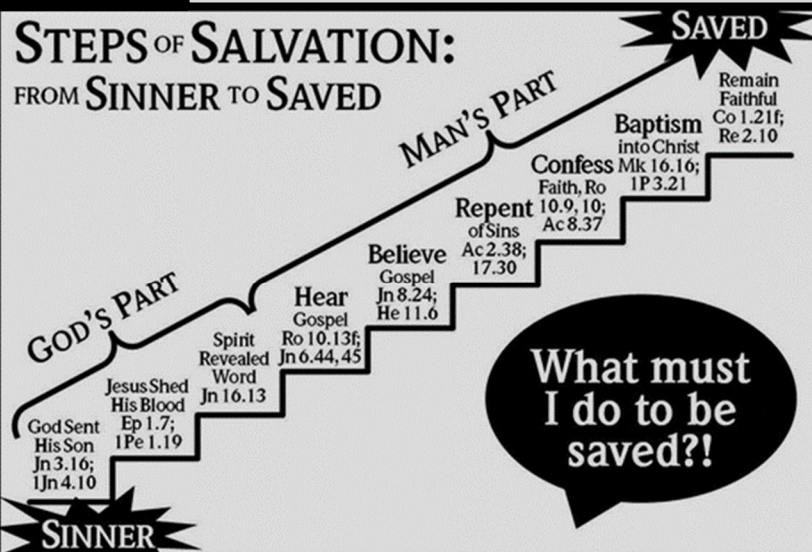
Head: Johnny Moss
Helper: Jacob Mashburn

Bible Reading: Rick Hemphill

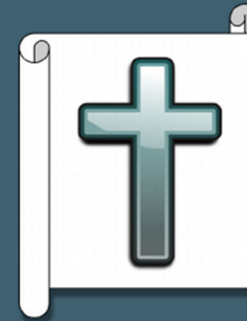
Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Php. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving**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



"...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 5, 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

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Regarding Easter

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

There is no evidence that Christians in the first century A.D. celebrated anything called Easter. The word "Easter" in Acts 12:4 (KJV) is an unfortunate translation of the Greek word *pascha*, which always refers to the Jewish Passover. Every other time *pascha* appears in the New Testament—including earlier in the same chapter (Acts 12:3)—it is rightly translated as "Passover."

Though many today celebrate Easter as the day Jesus was resurrected, Passover was not the day of His resurrection, but the night and day He was slain (the Jewish day began at evening and lasted until the next evening; Gen. 1:5; Matt. 26:17–ff). Furthermore, it was not the early Christians celebrating the Passover in Acts 12, but the enemies of Christianity—Herod and the Jews who were killing Christians (Acts 12:1–4). The holiday in Acts 12 translated as "Easter" would have involved the Jews slaying a lamb *after* Christ was slain on the cross, which at that point would have been a blasphemous rejection of Christ, the Lamb of God, as the ultimate and final sacrifice (1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 10:8–18).

In the second century A.D., uninspired men introduced

a yearly observance of Christ's death and resurrection near the time of Passover. By the sixth century, Catholicism had added unscriptural and even pagan traditions, eventually forming what we now call *Easter*.

Some argue that Easter eggs are not related to paganism, but came from Catholic customs surrounding Lent. However, eggs were fertility symbols long before Christianity—in Babylonian, Egyptian, and Persian cultures. Rabbits also symbolized reproduction and were never associated with Christ in the Scriptures. Even if someone claims to “reinvent” these symbols for Jesus, it still runs the risk of blending the holy with the profane if used in a religious context (1 Cor. 10:20; 2 Cor. 6:14–17; cf. Lev. 10:10).

The English word *Easter* is commonly traced to a pagan fertility goddess—known by names like Ishtar, Ashtoreth, Astarte, Ostara, and Eostre. The Bible records Solomon worshiping a goddess named Ashtoreth (also known as the Babylonian goddess Ishtar, the female counterpart of Baal) roughly one thousand years before the resurrection of Christ (1 Kings 11:5, 33; 2 Kings 23:13). “*The Venerable*” Bede, a historian from the 8th-century A.D., stated that the month of April (called “Eosturmonath”) was named after *Eostre*, whom he described as a fertility goddess honored in springtime festivals. Though some debate the connection between Easter and these pagan goddesses, the similarities are too strong to simply dismiss. What are the odds that all these goddesses—each with nearly identical names, each associated with fertility and spring—are unrelated? They are far more likely cultural versions of the same false deity. Just as Baal had many names, so did this fertility goddess.

There is some debate about the origins of the name “Easter,” but no matter what it is called, there is no Scriptural evidence that the first-century church observed it as a religious holiday. If the name is truly derived from a pagan goddess, then whenever someone says “Easter,” he is saying the name of a false goddess that should have been forsaken and forgotten a long time ago (Hos. 2:17; cf. Ex. 23:13; Deut. 12:3; Josh. 23:7). Instead, let us always remember our Lord in the way He desires and follow the Biblical pattern of communion on the first day of every week (Acts 2:42; 20:6–7; 1 Cor. 11:20; cf. 16:2; 2 Thess. 2:15).

<http://www.JasonsBibleBlog.com>

Your Temptations Do Not Define You

By Jason Patrick Hilburn

You are not defined by what tempts you. Just because a person may be tempted to be intimate with someone of the same gender, that does not mean that he must give in to that temptation, or that he is destined to be a homosexual. If a married man is tempted to cheat on his wife, that does not mean he must give in to that temptation or that he is destined to be an adulterer. Temptations to steal, lie, do drugs, or commit other sins do not make a person guilty of those things. What defines us is how we choose to respond to those temptations.

Many do not realize that temptation itself is not sinful. Our sinless Savior was tempted in every way we are, yet He never sinned (Heb. 4:15). Though temptations are not inherently sinful, a person must be careful not to let temptation grow into sin. It is one thing to notice something that could be sinfully appealing; it is another thing to dwell on it, feed it, or act upon it. For example, there is a difference between innocently noticing an attractive person and allowing thoughts to go uncontrolled, imagining sexual intimacy with that person. Jesus said, “*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart*” (Mt. 5:27-28). Allowing temptation to linger and develop further is how sin occurs (Jam. 1:12-16).

While our choices can define us, our past choices do not have to define us permanently. People can change. Paul reminded the Corinthians of this: “*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God*” (1 Cor. 6:9-11). The Corinthians changed when they repented and had their sins washed away by Christ in baptism (Acts 18:8; 22:16). God then forgave and forgot (Heb. 8:12), and they needed to continue walking in the light faithfully, confessing sins in repentance as necessary for forgiveness after baptism (1 Jn. 1:6-2:6).

The world says if you are tempted, “That is who you are,” but God says you can choose differently (Josh. 24:15; Deut. 30:19). He will always provide a way to escape every temptation (1 Cor. 10:13). Do not allow temptations to discourage you or convince you that you are evil. Choose what is right, and God will bless you. “*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him*” (Jam. 1:12).

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