



TAKING STEPS OF
FAITH

Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church
H.B. Charles Jr. | Pastor-Teacher

SHILOH.CHURCH



Which of the following statements best describes why you want to talk with someone today?

- S1** - *I need to trust Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord.....*1
- S2** - *I want to be baptized.....*5
- S3** - *I would like to become a member of the Shiloh Church.....*12
- S4** - *I am unsure of my relationship with God.....*16
- S5** - *I need someone to pray for me.....*23

If you have a spiritual concern that is not listed here please state and/or explain below:

S1: Salvation | Knowing God

All of us have problems. Our problems are different. But we all share the same ultimate problem. God is holy, and we are not. Each of us will answer to God for how we live our lives. Our only hope for salvation on that final day of judgement is the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the good news of salvation. Actually, the gospel is bad news, worse news, good news, and best news at the same time.

The Bad News: We are sinners that are separated from God.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. – Romans 3:23

*But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*

– Isaiah 59:2

The Worse News: There is nothing we can do to save ourselves.

*We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds
are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities,
like the wind, take us away. – Isaiah 64:6*

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. – Ephesians 2:1-3

The Good News: Jesus Christ paid our sin-debt by the blood of his cross and resurrection from the dead.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received; that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

The Best News: You can receive the gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9

In a real sense, salvation is as simple as A-B-C.

- A. **Admit** to God that you are a sinner who needs to be saved from the penalty of your sins.
- B. **Believe** that Jesus Christ died for your sins at the cross and rose from the dead.
- C. **Confess** Jesus Christ as Lord of your life.

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
– Romans 10:9*

TWO QUESTIONS:

1. Do you understand the message of the gospel that has been presented to you?
2. Is there anything that prevents you from trusting Jesus Christ today as your Savior and Lord?

PRAY: “God, I am a sinner and I want to be forgiven of my guilt before you. I believe your Son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me new life in him. I turn away from my sins and confess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Please help me to submit the lordship and leadership of Christ over my life. Thank you for the gift of eternal life. In Jesus name, Amen.”

S2: Baptism | Going Public

There are two Christian ordinances prescribed in the New Testament. “Ordinances” are rituals of worship the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the church to practice. These ordinances symbolize what it means to be saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. The two symbols of salvation are **Baptism** and **the Lord’s Supper**.

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a rite-of-passage in which a new believer is fully immersed in water to identify with Christ and the church.

Why should a person be baptized?

Baptism is a vital part of the historic Christian faith. However, we do not believe baptism has any power to save. Baptism is an act of faith. But it is not a saving act. The only saving acts are the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

HERE ARE THREE REASONS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE BAPTIZED.

1. Jesus Christ commands it.

Jesus said,

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

– Matthew 28:19

2. To follow the example of Christ.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for this it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.

Then he consented.– Matthew 3:13-15

3. It is the biblical declaration of faith.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

– Galatians 3:27-28

What is the meaning of baptism?

Baptism identifies the new believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. –

Romans 6:3-4

How should a believer be baptized?

The New Testament manner and method of baptism is immersion. Therefore, we do not baptize by sprinkling or pouring water. We baptize by dipping believers in water for several reasons:

1. Jesus was baptized by immersion.

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water... – Matthew 3:16

2. Every baptism in the New Testament was by immersion.

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing.

John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized. – John 3:22-23

And commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

– Acts 8:38-39

3. The word “baptize” means “to dip under water.”

Our word “baptize” is a transliteration of the Greek term “baptizo.” It means “to immerse,” “to plunge into,” or “to dip under water.” The Greek language has other terms for sprinkling and pouring the New Testament writers could have chosen. But they were led by the Holy Spirit to use a word that clearly and exclusively speaks of immersion.

4. Immersion is the best symbol of burial and resurrection.

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. – Colossians 2:11-12

Who should be baptized?

We practice believer's baptism. We baptize new believers as a symbol of their saving-faith in Christ and spiritual union to his people.

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. – Acts 2:41

But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. – Acts 8:12

HAVE YOU REPENTED OF YOUR SINS AND TRUSTED JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD? IF NOT, LET'S TURN TO **SECTION ONE** OF THIS BOOKLET AND TALK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO RECEIVE SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST.

What about re-baptism?

It is warranted and justifiable to re-baptize a person who was baptized as an infant, child, or adult before he or she came to personal faith in Christ. We also re-baptize those who were baptized by other methods and want to be immersed in accordance with Christ, the New Testament, and the early church. Beyond that, there is no more reason for you to be baptized again than there is for you to be saved again.

When should a person be baptized?

You should be baptized as soon as you believe in the blood and righteousness of Christ for salvation. The example of baptism in the New Testament indicates believers were baptized right after they believed. No probationary period was indicated, though such might be justified to attest the genuineness of the profession of faith (Acts 2:41; Acts 8:35-38; Acts 16:33).

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have trusted Christ as Savior and Lord, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until everything in your life is right before you are baptized, you will never feel good enough. Genuine faith is the only condition for baptism.

*And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.
– Acts 8:36-37*

And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name. – Acts 22:16

S3: Church Membership

And I tell you, you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. – Matthew 16:18

A true commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ should result in a firm commitment to the church of Jesus Christ.

Why church membership matters?

At Shiloh, we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for five reasons:

1. Christ loves the church.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... – Ephesians 5:25

2. The church is spiritually united to one another in Christ.

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. – Romans 12:4-5

3. The church is on mission together for Christ.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. – Matthew 28:18-20a

4. Believers need fellowship with one another.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
– Hebrews 10:24-25*

5. The Lord has gifted us to serve the church.

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
– 1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

THERE ARE FOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE SHILOH CHURCH.

1. Saving-Faith in Christ

Paul said,

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. – Romans 10:9-10

HAVE YOU REPENTED OF YOUR SINS AND TRUSTED JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR? IF NOT, LET'S TURN TO **SECTION ONE** AND TALK ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST.

2. Baptism

Jesus said,

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. – Matthew 28:18-20

3. New Members Class

Our New Members class is a four-week series of sessions that introduce you to the Mission and Vision of the Shiloh Church. These sessions take place during our Bible Study Fellowship time on Sunday mornings. The four class sessions take place during the corresponding Sunday of the month.

4. Church Covenant

Our Church Covenant is a statement of our commitment to Christ and to one another, as a family of believers in Christ. The Church Covenant emphasizes our commitment to one another, as brothers and sisters in Christ. All new members are asked to affirm the Church Covenant.

S4: Christian Assurance | Absolutely Sure

God the Father loved sinners by sending his only Son to live the life of perfect righteousness that we should have lived and to die the death of divine punishment that we should have died. Assurance of salvation is based on (1) the unfailing word of God, (2) the finished work of Christ, and (3) the indwelling witness of the Holy Spirit.

There are many reasons why a person may feel unsure about where you stand with God. Look at the list below and check the one that fits you best.

- I accepted salvation by faith in Christ in the past, but I have sinned so many times since then that I feel far away from God now.***
- I was very young and do not remember when I was forgiven of my sin. I think I did not understand enough about God when I joined church and was baptized as a child.***
- I have had some tough situations in my life that cause me to doubt or question God.***
- I am not sure I ever truly put my faith in Jesus Christ alone as my Savior and Lord.***

LOOKING BACK

When you repent of your sins and trust in Jesus Christ, he becomes your Lord and Savior. He forgives your sins (past, present, and future) and gives you a new position in him. That is how a relationship with God begins. The difficult part about our perspective is we see only the present and the past. God sees our past, present, and our future. When God saves you, he already knows the sin you will commit in the future. Yet, he still loves you enough to forgive your sins in Christ.

Let's read Romans 10:9-10:

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Looking back, when did you begin your relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior so you would be saved?

TIME: _____

AGE: _____

PLACE: _____

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE IF YOU EVER ACCEPTED CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR IN THE PAST, LET'S RETURN TO **SECTION ONE** RIGHT NOW TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO START A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

If you feel like you came to know Christ in the past, but it seems like nothing has changed in your life, let's look closer at how the Lord works in our lives.

Knowing Jesus is not like knowing a famous person you have never met. When you accept Jesus, he forgives your sins, his Holy Spirit comes into your life and he helps you love and understand Christ throughout your life. Each year you should be able to look back at the previous year and see how you know more about God now than you did a year ago.

Sometimes our spiritual growth in Christ is slow, so we think we are not growing at all. But, when you look at your growth over time, you may notice how God is at work in your life.

THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU KNEW OF GOD WHEN YOU FIRST TRUSTED CHRIST FOR SALVATION. DO YOU KNOW MORE OF GOD NOW THAN YOU DID IN THE PAST?

IF YOU CANNOT SEE ANY CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE AND NO GROWTH IN CHRIST, GO TO **SECTION ONE** TO GO THROUGH THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN CHRIST TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE TRULY COME TO KNOW JESUS, NOT JUST ABOUT JESUS.

MOVING FORWARD

If you can go back to a time when you first met Jesus and you can see the changes he has made in your life, even if they are small, then here are a few things to think about:

You do not hold on to God, God holds on to you.

Once you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior, there is nothing that can separate you from that relationship.

Jesus said,

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one. – John 10:28-30

Paul wrote,

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 8:38-39

If you feel like you are the one maintaining your connection to God, you have forgotten he is the one who holds you. We have the responsibility to follow Christ, but he is the one who carries you.

For more information, you can also read John 6:37-40, John 10:28-29, Jude 24-25, and 1 Corinthians 1:8-9.

You will never know enough.

Since your understanding of God has grown over time, you may think that you were not saved earlier because you did not know “enough.” The issue is not information: it is an issue of the heart. Next year you will know even more about God and the year after that. When you started following Jesus, God did not require you to know everything about him (which would be impossible); he required only for you to confess your sin and believe in him.

Jesus said,

Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. - Luke 18:17

You do not have to live in fear every day.

When you trust Jesus for salvation, God takes away your sins and gives you eternal life. If you can lose eternal life, it was never really “eternal,” was it?

Jesus said,

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

If you spend your life living in constant fear that God will turn away from you if you ever commit a sin or turn from him, you misunderstand the love of God.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us. – 1 John 4:18-19

We believe the Lord who has saved us from the penalty of our past sins also has the power to sustain us on our journey from earth to heaven.

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. – Philippians 1:6

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRAY RIGHT NOW ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?

Ask the Lord for faith to trust the strength of his love to hold on to you forever.

Ask the Lord to help you not to live in constant fear.

Ask the Lord to help you begin serving him faithfully.

S5: Believing Prayer | Trusting God

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:6-7

Why Pray?

If God knows everything and controls everything, what difference do our prayers make? There are two big reasons why you should pray

1. The word of God commands it.

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

– Matthew 7:7-8

2. God answers prayer!

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21

CAN YOU IDENTIFY A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU REPENTED OF YOUR SINS AND TRUSTED CHRIST FOR SALVATION?

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST, LET'S TURN TO **SECTION ONE** FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO TRUST CHRIST FOR SALVATION.

IF YOU ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOU HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST, HOW CAN WE PRAY TOGETHER TODAY?

Mission Statement

The mission of Shiloh is to make more and better disciples for Jesus Christ in our community and throughout the nations.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:18-20

Vision Statement

Connect | Grow | Serve



We connect lost people to Christ and to the church.
John 4:23-24



We grow disciples to think and behave biblically.
2 Peter 3:18



We serve one another, our community and the world in Christian love. Mark 16:45

The Church Covenant

We, who are members of the Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, solemnly enter into covenant with the great Head of the church and with one another, promising, in humble reliance upon divine help, to walk together in Christian love.

To watch for one another's welfare, to remember one another in prayer, to comfort one another in sickness or distress, to be ever slow to take offense, ready to forgive, eager for reconciliation.

We also promise to labor and pray for the spiritual and temporal prosperity of this church, to attend regularly its services, sustain its doctrines, ordinances and disciplines.

To contribute freely of our means for the payment of its expenses, for the relief of the poor, and for the spread of the gospel at home and abroad.

We also engage to maintain the habit of daily devotion, and to make earnest efforts for the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to be honest in our dealings, truthful in our statement, faithful in our engagements, temperate in our habits, and circumspect in our deportment, thus striving to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Apostle's Creed

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:*

*Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;*

He descended into hell.

*The third day He arose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.*

Amen.



JACKSONVILLE

1118 West Beaver St.
Jacksonville, FL 32204
904-353-8829

WORSHIP WITH US:

Sundays - 7:45^{am} & 10:45^{am}

Bible Study Fellowship:
9:15^{am}

Midday Bible Study:

Wednesday - 12:00^{pm}

Midweek Worship:

Wednesday - 7:00^{pm}

ORANGE PARK

939 Blanding Blvd.
Orange Park, FL 32065
904-899-1890

WORSHIP WITH US:

Sundays: 9:15^{am} & 12:30^{pm}

Bible Study Fellowship:
8:00^{am} & 11:00^{am}

Midday Bible Study

Tuesday - 12:00^{pm}

Midweek Worship:

Tuesday - 7:00^{pm}

SPANISH SERVICE:

Sundays: 9:15^{am}

HB CHARLES JR. Pastor-Teacher

1118 West Beaver St. | Jacksonville, FL 32204 | 904-353-8829
939 Blanding Blvd. | Orange Park, FL 32065 | 904-899-1890

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CONNECT WITH US

Date: _____

Gender: Male Female

Married Single

Name: _____

Birthday _____

If youth, what grade:

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Cell: _____ Home: _____

E-mail: _____

TODAY, MY RESPONSE IS:

To commit for the first time to follow Jesus as my Lord & Savior.

To be Baptized.

To become a Member by:

Baptism

Statement

Rededication of My Life to Christ

To affirm the assurance of my salvation in Jesus.

To ask for prayer.

Further Counseling Needed: _____

Counseled By: _____