

The South Florida Avenue MESSENGER

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
The Messenger is published weekly by the South Florida Ave. Church of Christ meeting at 1807 South Florida Ave - Lakeland, FL 33803 Vol. 70 No. 04 01-24-17

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald..Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

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www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

Blessings from the Lectureship

Hiram Kemp

The 42nd Annual Florida School of Preaching Lectureship is in the books. The lectureship is always a great thing to look forward to, and it is also a great event to look back at and see the blessings that came with it. God has blessed the church with opportunities to grow in our knowledge of his Son and the lectureship helps us do this (2 Pet. 3:18). We need to take advantage of every occasion we have to learn more about God and how to please him (1 Pet. 2:2). While events like the lectureship are often exhausting, they are spiritually refreshing as well. We should not take for granted the times we can freely assemble, study the Bible, pray to God, and sing his praises. We often sing a song, "Count Your Many Blessings." This is a Biblical concept (Psa. 103:2). I want to make mention of a few of the blessings from last week's lectureship.

Fellowship

One of the many strengths of the first century church was an emphasis on fellowship (Acts 2:42). The early church met daily as they knew time spent together would strengthen their relationships with each other (Acts 5:42). The lectureship provides a great opportunity for us to get a global view of the church. With Christians coming in from all over the United States to attend the lectures, it helps us to connect with God's people everywhere. We got acquainted with old friends and familiar faces as well as met new brothers and sisters in Christ for the first time. The relationships that we have in Christ are the only ones that will transcend this life. We should make the most of them. The word fellowship means to "have in common." The lectureship reminds us that there are people just like us, who believe the same truth we believe and want to serve the same Lord (Eph. 4:4-6). The faithfulness of brethren encourages us not to give up (1 Thess. 3:8). We shared meals and laughs, and even comforted one another as we thought of those that were grieving among us (Rom. 12:15). The Lectureship is a great time for fellowship and for this, we should be grateful.

Edification

Just like in year's past, there were great lessons taught at the lectureship. The theme concerning end times is one that sparks the interest of everyone. The lessons gave simple Bible answers to tough questions. The lessons were presented clearly and the truth was taught in love (Eph. 4:15). In a day where many are running to

speculation and skepticism, we need to continually run to the Bible for answers. Lessons on the Book of Revelation, tough passages in Daniel, and lessons for young people were among the many themes addressed. The question and answer sessions provided listeners with the opportunity to ask the preachers questions on the lessons they taught. All the questions were handled with humility and dignity, and the answers were grounded in Biblical truth (1 Pet. 4:11).

While the lessons were edifying, the attendance and participation of South Florida Avenue encouraged me as well. Several forfeited entire afternoons so that they could attend. Many of our young people were present on Monday and sat attentively as the lessons were preached to encourage our young people to live with eternity in mind. I was impressed with Courtney Williams and Madison Caffee, who were here every day and did not miss a lesson. When school is out on Winter Break and many other things could be done, they thought it wise to come and hear lessons that will have a bearing on eternity. This encouraged me (2 Tim. 3:14-15). Many of our elderly couples were here throughout the day and made the sacrifice at night to hear the lessons preached. We not only support the truth by practicing what is taught, but also by being present to hear it preached (Acts 10:24, 33). I'm privileged to work with a congregation that wants to be involved in these types of efforts and makes the sacrifices to do so.

Service

The lectures provide an opportunity for service and this is what our Christian lives should be about (Mk. 10:44-45). Some opened their homes so that visitors could have a place to stay for the week. Those who labored in the kitchen, along with those who worked to ensure the selling of books and other things went smoothly, and helped everyone else enjoy the lectureship. Brian's leadership in organizing the lectureship and making sure things ran in an orderly fashion should not go unnoticed. Heading up these large events is not an easy task. When we look at everything that goes into the lectureship, we get a better idea of how the church should function. Paul once tried to get the Corinthians to understand the importance of each member and appreciate the role that everyone plays in the body of Christ. Every member has different gifts, but all the members help the body to function (1 Cor. 12:12-24). The freedom we have in Christ is to be used to serve one another, and to the degree that we do this, we please God (Gal. 5:13). In view of all that God has done for us, it just makes sense that our lives should be surrendered in his service (Rm. 12:2). Congregations that are selfish soon fade and die, but congregations where service is emphasized will flourish and bear fruit.

Exaltation

The greatest blessing of the lectureship is the exaltation of Christ. Everything that we do should be done to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31). Our goal in fellowship with one another, edification, and service is not to draw any attention to ourselves but to the God who has saved us. The lectureship is a blessing because it holds up Christ as our all in all. We had the chance to think a lot about how things will end and what the Bible says about how that will occur. While the world as we know will one day perish and everything will change, the Lord will never change (Heb. 13:8). Many in the world will wait until they are forced to bow and acknowledge Jesus as the Lord, but Christians get a head start as we confess this daily (Phil. 2:9-11). Through the lessons preached, the prayers offered up, and the songs that were sung, we glorified God. Events like the lectureship are truly a foretaste of the heavenly rest that awaits us. In heaven, God's people will be engaged in endless worship toward God and the Lamb of God who redeemed us.

Final Thoughts

The Florida School of Preaching Lectureship is an event I look forward to every year. It is great to look back and see all the good that came from the lectures and what we must look forward to. God has richly blessed us, and we would be wise to pause and thank him for those blessings regularly. I am thankful for our elders and their continued wisdom in seeing the need for us being a part of these types of events and the healthy relationship with school. As the Psalmist stated, "what shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" (Psa. 116:12).

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Bill Long is scheduled for surgery on Tuesday Jan. 24th. Carol Eason is having surgery on Jan. 31st. Also keep Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Jacqueline Dopwell, Kenny French, JoAnn Hoback, Elizabeth Tubbs and Margaret Coone in prayer.

Relatives: Tonya Mathis, Dee Moore, Margie Bolding, Sarah Blevins, Willie Williams, Owen Lewis, Dayne Romine, Bobby Cole, Linda McShane's brother, who has suffered from a heart attack.

Shut In Members: Virginia Plumlee, Dick & Joyce Burbage, Don Starks, Sharon Edler and Duane Nelson.

Others: Joyce Stearsman, Chrissi Fuesner, Kim Gustafson, daughter of a friend, of Sharon Egolf and Carmen Carro, friend of Elizabeth Tubbs,

Upcoming Events

February 4th: Ladies Day at Sebring Parkway Church of Christ. Registration and breakfast start at 8:00 a.m. Program starts at 9:00 a.m.

February 5th: Fellowship In Service after evening services.

February 18th: Men's breakfast at South Florida Ave. at 8:00 a.m.

February 24th-26th: Y.E.S. Weekend, See Brian if you would like to attend this uplifting event!

Sympathy

Jason Hendrix's grandfather, Wayne Hendrix, passed away Wednesday Jan 18th. Please keep Jason and his family in your prayers.

Thank You

Your kind expression of sympathy is gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated.

The family of Ann Howard.

Visitors

Cheyenne Smith, Virginia Rupert, Warren & Elaine Sims, and James & Jenifer Sims and Joey.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

David Anderson **Table** David Williams
Paul Romine **Assist** Robert Cooper

Sunday, January 29, 2017
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class David Williams
Prayer Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Bobby Shuemaker
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer C.J. Grimes
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Kyle Williams

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Stacey Paulin
Opening Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Grimes
Att. Cards Antonio & Quadarius
Closing Prayer Chuck Wyatt
Open & Close Building Jason Hendrix

Wed. February 1, 2017

Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Closing Prayer Kenny French

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Chuck Wyatt so he can get a replacement - 859-5231 or 602-9005

Sunday, February 5, 2017
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Frank Hamby
Prayer Tucker Sweeney

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Kenny French
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Matt Willcot
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Kyle Williams
Opening Prayer Kyle Bingle
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Greeters The Paulins
Att. Cards Willcut boys
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin
Open & Close Building Bobby Sheumaker

Wed. February 8, 2017

Song Leader Ken Walker
Opening Prayer David Williams
Closing Prayer Paul Romine

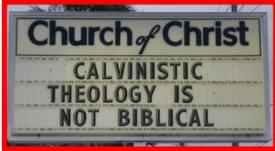
~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan. 01	\$5,697.85
Jan. 08	\$4,834.30
Jan. 15	\$5,002.50
Jan. 22	\$4,759.20
Contribution Average	\$5,073.46
2016 Weekly Budget	\$4,422.60



Tune into AM 1330 (station WWAB) with your friends and neighbors every Monday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. for the "Way of Truth" program. This is a joint effort to evangelize involving Terrance Brownlow-Dindy (6th Street) and Hiram Kemp. Let's point our community to the Bible!

Calvinism: An Influential and Dangerous Doctrine (part 1)



There are two predominate systems of error that permeate the denominational world. The first is premillennialism, which was addressed quite a bit during the Florida School of Preaching lectureship that just concluded. The second is “Calvinism.” We were reminded of this in our last Gospel meeting with Stephen Rogers. From that meeting, I planned to put six consecutive messages on the church marquee dealing with that subject, the first of which began January 22. John Calvin (1509-1564) was a French theologian and Reformer. He was not the first to teach the major tenants of his doctrine, but he certainly popularized them. He had and has a tremendous, but erroneous, influence upon the religious world from his day until now. The basic doctrines of “Calvinism” are given by a five point acrostic (**T-U-L-I-P**). The **T** stands for “total hereditary depravity” (also known as “original sin”). The **U** stands for “unconditional predestination.” The **L** stands for “limited atonement.” The **I** stands for “irresistible grace.” The **P** stands for “perseverance of the saints” (also known as “once saved, always saved”). “Calvinism” must be recognized, understood, and refuted. In the next five bulletins, we will examine each of these tenants. As we start, realize that “God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints” (1 Corinthians 14:33). Any doctrine that breeds confusion and uncertainty is not from God. Also realize that any doctrine that contradicts the total teaching of the Bible cannot be from God. When human teaching differs from God’s word, “let God be true but every man a liar” (Romans 3:4). ❤️ Brian



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

MARK YOUR CALANDER: FEBRUARY 24-26

YES Weekend

Feb. 24-26, 2017

See Brian if you would like to attend this uplifting event!

Thank You!

We are planning again for a YES II mission trip to Penonome, Panama, July 1-9, 2017. If you want to go, please see Brian ASAP. If you would like to contribute funds, please see one of our elders. Please pray for us!



A huge THANKS is in order for the South Florida Avenue church of Christ for all your hospitality and help with the 42nd Annual Florida School of Preaching Lectureship! Special thanks to all those who worked in the kitchen. This crew was early every morning and stayed late each night. Appreciation is also extended to those who attended the lectureship. Some even attended every session! Your presence was an encouragement to all! The Florida School of Preaching thanks the eldership and the congregation for hosting these lectures. Without your help and support, the lectures could not continue as they have since 1975. May the Lord continue blessing us with unity in teaching the Gospel!